**WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY**

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

The Government Statistics Section (GSS) and the Social Statistics Section (SSS) of the American Statistical Association (ASA) are pleased to announce the availability of a scholarship in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a long-time contributor to Federal statistics. The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS), co-sponsored with the Washington Statistical Society, the Caucus for Women in Statistics, Harris-Smith Institutes, Mathematica Policy Research, and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence, thereby encouraging them to consider a future in government statistics.

The WJSS Award provides funding of $1,000 for use in exploring any of a broad number of opportunities for furthering the development of a career related to government statistics. Applicants are encouraged to be creative in seeking support for a wide variety of uses, including:

Tuition, board, and books for courses or short courses Conference attendance Purchase of books, software, data sets, or other supporting materials for research projects related to government statistics.

Activities may relate to any level of government, including Federal, state, and local governmental units. They must be statistical in nature, focusing on data, methodology, analysis, or data presentation. Recent award winners have used the WJSS to fund attendance at the Joint Statistical Meetings, support continued public policy research, and to take short courses to better under-stand and analyze data for current research.

Application

To apply for a WJSS Award, the following information must be sent to the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2009:

A completed WJSS Application Form (form is available at:
http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/wrayjacksonsmith.html)
A proposal of activity to be funded
Academic transcript (for current/recent students) or job performance reviews for the past 2 years (for nonstudents) or equivalent proof of superior academic and/or professional performance Two letters of recommendation.

Please send materials to:

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee c/o Robert A. Kominski electronically to: Robert.A.Kominski@census.gov.

Selection Process

The WJSS Committee, consisting of a total of three GSS and SSS members, will review each proposal, based on an established rating scheme. Each application will be judged based on the following criteria:

Stage in Career
Past Performance
Quality of the Proposed Activity
Relevance of Activity to Government Statistics Innovation/Ingenuity of the Proposed Project
Feasibility of Completion of Activity Two Letters of Recommendation

Selection will be made by June 1, 2009.

Eligibility

The WJSS is targeted at students and persons early in their career in government statistics. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education. Membership in the Government Statistics Section, Social Statistics Section, or in the ASA is not required.

For more information, contact Robert A. Kominski by e-mail:
Robert.A.Kominski@census.gov.

HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are sought for the 2009 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 statistical agencies, other government organizations, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2009 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with, and strongly supportive of, these organizations during his career. The award consists of a $1000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2009. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

The previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award are Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (NCHS), Constance Citro (CNStat), Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (Census Bureau), Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau), Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS), Nancy Kirkendall (EIA) and Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau).

Nominations for the 2009 award will be accepted beginning in February 2009. Nomination packages should contain:

· A cover letter from the nominator that should include references to specific examples of the nominee's contributions to innovation in Federal statistics. These contributions can be to methodology, procedure, organization, administration, or other areas of Federal statistics, and need not have been made by or while a Federal employee.

· Up to six additional letters in support that document how each contribution demonstrates innovation.
· A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for the 2008 award, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Dwight Brock, Chair, 2009 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-517-4026 or dwightbrock@westat.com. Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2009. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged. Please contact the chair if you need to make arrangements to fax or mail a nomination.

FCSM 2009 Research Conference Call for Papers

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is planning a research conference to be held at the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, on November 2-4, 2009 (see Call for Papers at: http://www.fcsm.gov/events/).

The conference will feature mostly contributed papers with formal discussion and software demonstrations on topics related to a variety of statistical research issues. Papers and demonstrations should address methodology, empirical studies, relevant issues, or needs for statistical research. Papers must be original and not previously published or disseminated.

Abstracts are due by April 10, 2009 and should be submitted as early as possible. Submit via the web at: http://www.fcsm.gov/cgi-bin/conference/submissions

New Graduate Certificates in Biostatistics and Epidemiology at Georgetown University

Are you interested in genetics, bioterrorism, international health, bioinformatics, epidemiology or health policy? Get the analytic tools to meet the demands of the 21st century!

Georgetown University's Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Biomathematics is now offering a graduate certificate program in Biostatistics or Epidemiology! The purpose of this program is to supplement and build on the knowledge of working professionals who desire additional training in Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Designed especially to fit within one academic year for students who wish to immerse themselves into the field in preparation for other graduate of professional degrees.

The certificate program will provide integrated training in computational, quantitative, and biomedical sciences to support health-related research performed in academia, government and industry. Students will acquire hands-on experience with quantitative and computational tools. They will also be challenged to implement what they have learned in class in the computational laboratory and daily homework.

Deadlines for Fall 2009 admission:
Overseas Applicants: June 1
Domestic Applicants: June 30

For more information, visit: http://dbbb.georgetown.edu/certificate/ or e-mail Caroline at ctw26@georgetown.edu.

Apply now for Fall 2009 at: http://grad.georgetown.edu/pages/apply_online.cfm

WSS and Other Seminars
(All events are open to any interested persons)

March

  5 Thurs. **Administrative Data in Support of Policy Relevant Statistics: The Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages**

  10 Tues. **New Bootstrap Bias Corrections with Application to Estimation and Prediction MSE in Small Areas Estimation**

April

  8 Wed. **An LEHD Primer: An Innovative Use of Administrative Data for Policy Analysis**

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

Save the Date:
An All-Day Symposium in Honor of Dr. Edmund Gehan on April 27, 2009

The Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Biomathematics at Georgetown University and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center invite you to an all-day symposium in honor of Dr. Edmund Gehan, Professor Emeritus of Biostatistics. Invited speakers are Dennis Dixon, Jonas Ellenberg, Susan Ellenberg, Emil J. Freireich, Stephen George, J. Jack Lee, Aiyi Liu, Karen Messer, Peter Thall, and Marvin Zelen.

For more information and to register online, visit http://dbbb.georgetown.edu/News/gehansymposium/ or contact Caroline Wu, Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Biomathematics, Georgetown University, Suite 180, Building D, 4000 Reservoir Road NW; (202) 687-4114; ctw26@georgetown.edu

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the April issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until March 16, 2009. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Announcement

Nominations Sought for 2009 Julius Shiskin Award

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The Award is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of information technology techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. The Award was established in 1980 by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and is now cosponsored by the WSS, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The 2008 award recipients were William R. Bell and Robert M. Groves. Dr. Bell was recognized for his innovative statistical research that led to improved economic statistics through important contributions to the theory and practice of seasonal adjustment, small area estimation, and time series modeling; Dr. Groves was recognized for his innovative statistical research that led to improved economic statistics through important contributions to the theory and practice of survey methods for the conduct of sample surveys of both households and establishments.

Because the program was initiated many years ago, statisticians and economists often ask, "Who was Julius Shiskin?" At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and earlier served as the Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Chief Economic Statistician and Assistant Director of the Census Bureau. Throughout his career, he was known as an innovator. At Census he was instrumental in developing an electronic computer method for seasonal adjustment. In 1961, he published *Signals of Recession and Recovery,* which laid the groundwork for the calculation of monthly economic indicators, and he developed the monthly Census report *Business Conditions Digest* to disseminate them to the public. In 1969, he was appointed Chief Statistician at OMB where he developed the policies and procedures that govern the release of key economic indicators (Statistical Policy Directive Number 3), and originated a *Social Indicators* report. In 1973, he was selected to head BLS where he was instrumental in preserving the integrity and independence of the BLS labor force data and directed the most comprehensive revision in the history of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which included a new CPI for all urban consumers.

Nominations for the 2009 award are now being accepted. Individuals and groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated. The award will be presented with an honorarium of $750 plus additional recognition from the sponsors. A nomination form and a list of all previous recipients are available on the ASA Website at www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html. For questions or more information, please contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at paben.steven@bls.gov or phone at 202-691-6147.

Completed nominations must be <u>received</u> by April 1, 2009.

Announcement

SIGSTAT Topics

March 18, 2009:   **What's New in SAS 9.2**
(http://support.sas.com/documentation/whatsnew/index.html)

Some of the enhancements in the latest release of the SAS System include new language features and procedure options, ODS Statistical Graphics (previously experimental), which are now in production; a new family of SAS/GRAPH procedures that use ODS Graphics to create standalone plots; new procedures in SAS/STAT software; jackknife and BRR variance estimation and domain analysis provided by the survey data analysis procedures; the PANEL procedure in SAS/ETS which expands the estimation capability of the TSCSREG procedure in the time-series cross-sectional framework; and SAS Stat Studio, new software for data exploration and analysis, providing a flexible programming environment in which you can run SAS/STAT or SAS/IML analyses and display the results with dynamically linked graphics and data tables.

April 15, 2009:   **GeoDA - Part 4**
(https://www.geoda.uiuc.edu/)

GeoDa is the latest incarnation in a long line of software tools developed by Dr. Luc Anselin's Spatial Analysis Laboratory (SAL) in the Department of Geography at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. It is designed to implement techniques for exploratory spatial data analysis (ESDA) on lattice data (points and polygons). The free program provides a user friendly and graphical interface to methods of descriptive spatial data analysis, such as spatial autocorrelation statistics, as well as basic spatial regression functionality. The latest version contains several new features such as a cartogram, a refined map movie, parallel coordinate plot, 3D visualization, conditional plots (and maps) and spatial regression.

Continuing the February discussion, this month will cover: Distance-Based Spatial Weights, Spatially Lagged Variables,   Global Spatial Autocorrelation, Local Spatial Autocorrelation, and   Spatial Autocorrelation Analysis for Rates.

May 20, 2009:   **GeoDA - Part 5**
(https://www.geoda.uiuc.edu/)

GeoDa is the latest incarnation in a long line of software tools developed by Dr. Luc Anselin's Spatial Analysis Laboratory (SAL) in the Department of Geography at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. It is designed to implement techniques for exploratory spatial data analysis (ESDA) on lattice data (points and polygons). The free program provides a user friendly and graphical interface to methods of descriptive spatial data analysis, such as spatial autocorrelation statistics, as well as basic spatial regression functionality. The latest version contains several new features such as a cartogram, a refined map movie, parallel coordinate plot, 3D visualization, conditional plots (and maps) and spatial regression.

Continuing the April discussion, this month will cover: Bivariate Spatial Autocorrelation, Regression Basics, Regression Diagnostics, Spatial Lag Model, and Spatial Error Model

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**. 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/.**

Program Announcement

Title: **Administrative Data in Support of Policy Relevant Statistics: The Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages**

Speakers: Richard L. Clayton and James R. Spletzer, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chair: Shelly Wilkie Martinez, Office of Management and Budget

Date/Time: Thursday, March 5, 2009 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 10. To be placed on the seminar
                attendance list at the Bureau of labor Statistics, you need to email your name, affiliation and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (note that there is an underscore after wss') by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message with this information. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: WSS Section on Public Policy

Abstract: The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program provides national, State, MSA, and county data on monthly employment, quarterly total wages, and the number of establishments, by 6-digit NAICS code. These data originate from the administrative records of the Unemployment Insurance system in each State, augmented by two supplemental surveys   the Annual Refiling Survey and the Multiple Worksite Report   that are necessary to yield accurate data at the local level. In the second quarter of 2008, the QCEW statistics show an employment level of 136.6 million, with 9.1 million establishments in the U.S. economy. The QCEW data also are the basis for the BLS Business Employment Dynamics (BED) series, which are created from longitudinally linking the QCEW microdata. The linkage process tracks net employment changes at the establishment level, which allows for a decomposition of net employment growth into the jobs gained at opening and expanding establishments (gross job gains) and the jobs lost at closing and contracting establishments (gross job losses). In this WSS seminar, we will emphasize the "foundations" of the QCEW program and describe how we transform raw' administrative UI records into something statistically useful, and we will also discuss the exciting new data products and research opportunities that the data present.

Program Announcement

Title: **New Bootstrap Bias Corrections with Application to Estimation and Prediction MSE in Small Areas Estimation**

Chair: TBA

Speaker: Danny Pfeffermann, Hebrew University and University of Southampton

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 / 12:30 - 2:00pm

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.   Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Methodology Program, WSS

Abstract: Classical Bootstrap bias corrections estimate the bias of an estimator computed from the original sample by the bias of the estimator computed from the bootstrap samples in estimating the original estimator, and then corrects the original estimator accordingly. The use of these corrections has two important limitations. First, it assumes implicitly that the bias is independent of the true parameter value, whereas in practice, the bias may be a more complicated function of the true parameter value. Second, when there are multiple parameters, the bias of the estimator of any one of them may depend on the bias of the estimators of the other parameters. This possibility is not accommodated by the classical corrections.

In this presentation I propose a new bootstrap bias correction procedure that aims to overcome the above two limitations. The procedure attempts to model the bias of the original estimator of any given parameter as a function of the original estimators and the corresponding bootstrap estimators of all the parameters. An application of the procedure for estimating the prediction MSE when estimating small area proportions under the unit level mixed logistic model will be illustrated and compared to other methods proposed in the literature to deal with this problem.

Program Announcement

Title: **An LEHD Primer: An Innovative Use of Administrative Data for Policy Analysis**

Speaker: Julia Lane, National Science Foundation.

Discussants: Ron Jarmin, Census Bureau
                  Nicholas Greenia, Internal Revenue Service

Chair: Michael L. Cohen, Committee on National Statistics

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 8, 2009 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 1. (To be placed on the
                  seminar attendance list at the Bureau of labor Statistics, you need to email your
                  name, affiliation and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (note that there is an
                  underscore after "wss") by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar or call
                  202-691-7524 and leave a message with this information. Bring a photo ID to the
                  seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE. Take the Red Line to Union
                  Station.)

Sponsor: WSS Section on Public Policy

Abstract: The talk will provide a general overview of the challenges faced with the
                  establishment of the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program.
                  It will describe the initial goals of the project and how they evolved in response to
                  pragmatic challenges. It will also describe the difficulties faced in obtaining and
                  merging the input data sets, various disclosure avoidance issues raised and the
                  techniques used to address them, as well as other relevant methodological issues
                  faced at the outset. The speaker will also discuss the actual and realized potential of
                  various areas of application, including the development of indicators of employment
                  and earnings dynamics, mapping applications, and research in a variety of policy
                  areas. (This is one of several talks in a series that the WSS Section on Public Policy
                  has been presenting this year on the uses of state and local administrative records to
                  inform public policy issues.)

Student Corner

On the birthday problem

Several weeks ago, I was sitting in a meeting with about 50 people of all ages. There are about 75 members of the group, but only about 50 people usually show up to the periodic meetings. At the end of the meeting, we decided to sing a birthday song to all members who had a January birthday. So, someone asked who had a birthday in January.

Immediately, the mother of a 14 year old girl raised her hand and pointed to her daughter, who was turning 15 on Saturday. Then an older gentleman said that his birthday was on the same day. I was shocked because my birthday was on the same Saturday. I thought it was quite remarkable to be in a room of 50 people where two other people shared my birthday. Perhaps I'm easily amazed. Like many others in the room, I wondered what the probability that three people in a group of 50 would have the same birthday. I thought I would pose the problem in this month's student corner to see how fellow students would answer the question. If you have a solution to the problem, please send it to me at tkennel@survey.umd.edu by March 8. Feel free to be creative with your solution and your assumptions. I'll try to summarize the most interesting solutions in next month's student corner.

Thanks,
Tim Kennel

JPSM Short Courses

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

March 25-26, 2009
Introduction to Survey Sampling
Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski
Registration Deadline: March 11, 2009

April 6-7, 2009
Guidelines for Writing Questions for Standardized Measurement
Nora Cate Schaeffer
Registration Deadline: March 23, 2009

May 11-12, 2009
Methods for Testing Survey Questions
Pamela Campanelli
Registration Deadline: April 27, 2009

ADDITIONAL 2009 COURSES

May 28-29, 2009 (Not yet open for registration):   Bayesian Inference in Surveys / Roderick
                                                     Little and Trivellore E. Raghunathan
                                                     Registration Deadline: May 14, 2009

2009 (Dates to be determined):   Analysis and Presentation of Economic Data / Katharine G.
                                   Abraham and Deborah P. Klein

2009 (Course is tentative):   Introduction to Item Response Theory (IRT) Modeling and
                                Applications / Bryce B. Reeve

INFORMATION: Course Details and Online Registration / www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

Sponsor Affiliate List: projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy.

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 1,900 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/90001)
A total of 3 or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Applicant 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.
Westat
Attn: Resume System
1650 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850-3195
Email: resume@westat.com / FAX: (888) 201-1452
Equal Opportunity Employer.

www.westat.com

ASSOCIATE TO FULL PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS OR BIOSTATISTICS

The Department of Statistics (DOS) and The Biostatistics Center (BSC) of The George Washington University are recruiting a tenured faculty position at the Associate Professor or Professor level. Basic Qualifications are a PhD in Statistics or Biostatistics, an established program of research, and a strong national and international reputation. Core responsibilities of the position will be to serve as Principal Investigator or co-Investigator on one or more BSC major projects; to teach 1 course per year in the DOS and to advise PhD students in Statistics and Biostatistics. The position will be tenured and funded 100% in Year 1. Salary support will decrease to 25% over a 5-year period. The remaining salary will be funded by sponsored projects (either at the BSC, or other external funding secured by the faculty member). Review of applications will begin May 1, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled. For additional information and the application procedure, please see http://www.gwu.edu/~stat/.

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

MATHEMATICAL STATISTICIANS, GS-1529
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC)
DIRECTORATE FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY
DIVISION OF HAZARD ANALYSIS

Join the talented group of Mathematical Statisticians at the CPSC, an independent Federal regulatory agency that is responsible for protecting the American public from unreasonable risks of injury and death from consumer products. Your statistical training and experience will play a major role in helping us characterize the prevalence and hazard patterns associated with consumer products. These statistics are integral to identifying emerging trends, supporting development of safety features and standards and informing consumer product related enforcement and regulatory decisions.

Successful candidates will have a Masters or PhD degree in statistics, biostatistics or related areas with the ability to communicate -orally and in writing statistical findings and conclusions to a wide audience. Specifically, experience with generation of parametric and non-parametric point and interval estimates, statistical modeling, design of experiments, sample size determination, and analysis of data from complex surveys is necessary. The ability to process, integrate, analyze and interpret results from multiple sources of national incident data and to formulate solutions that produce quantitatively defensible products is required.

 Positions are also available at the GS-1529-9/11/12/13 levels ($50,408 to $113,007). Successful candidates will analyze national data to characterize the frequency, severity, and distribution of injuries and fatalities associated with consumer products. They will also work in multidisciplinary teams to plan and analyze special studies and to assess the efficacy of safety enhancements.

These positions are located in Bethesda, Maryland and are open to qualified U.S. citizens with either no prior Federal status or prior Federal Status.

The CPSC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for these positions shall be determined on the basis of merit and without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, political preferences, marital status, sexual orientation, labor affiliation or non- affiliation or other non-merit factors.

For more information and to submit an application, please click on the Vacancy Announcements link at http://www.cpsc.gov/about/hr.html . There are two vacancy announcements. 4320EPHA-2009-0006 is open to the public while 4320EPHA-2009-0007 is the merit promotion announcement   for candidates that are former and current federal employees.

Research Statistician

RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. We have more than 3,800 professionals providing research and technical services to governments and businesses in more than 40 countries in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, advanced technology, international development, economic and social policy, energy, and the environment.

RTI International is seeking individuals of intellect, creativity, and commitment who understand the vital connection between focused research and social results, who realize that furthering a career in science and study can provide a significant benefit to society.

At RTI, we want you to think independently and act collaboratively -- your research will require the former and our multidisciplinary environment will foster the latter. We are dedicated to improving the human condition by turning your knowledge into practice and helping you bring your ideas to bear on a world that needs your drive and your enthusiasm.

Job Description

The Statistics and Epidemiology Unit at RTI International (RTI), the nation?s second largest independent, nonprofit scientific research organization is seeking a research statistician. More than 120 statisticians comprise the Statistics and Epidemiology Unit which is one of the largest and most comprehensive in private industry. RTI statisticians conduct cutting-edge research in survey and sample design, modeling, and statistical analysis. The Research Statistician will work in a variety of fields, including international health, governance, and education, as well as health services, economic and social development, education and training and the environment. This position requires the ability to work independently and as a member of a team to deliver high quality work. Eighty to ninety percent of daily work is at a computer, the remainder of the position-time would be in project planning meetings and conference calls. Position will be located in either our Rockville, Maryland or Washington D.C. office.

Responsibilities

- Apply standard statistical and/or data management software package(s) to execute data processing, and data analysis activities
- Conduct data processing and technically complicated data analysis with minimal or no supervision
- Develop solutions to problems where established theories and techniques have not been identified or where procedures are not established/available
- Assist or lead in the preparation, presentation, and follow-up of research proposals by providing computer programming support and analysis as well as writing sections of the technical proposal
- Participate in appropriate professional development and scientific stature efforts

Qualifications

- Master's degree in Statistics or Mathematics with 3 years of nonacademic related experience in the aforementioned areas of study or
- At least 6 years of experience with SAS and Excel
- Demonstrated data manipulation and data management skills

***For more information and to apply, please visit www.rti.org/job11854

We are proud to be an EEO/AA employer M/F/D/V

P.O. Box 2033
Washington, DC 20013

Washington
Statistical
Society

President		**Past President**		**President-Elect**	
Karol P. Krotki	202-728-2485	Michael P. Cohen	202-232-4651	John Eltinge	202-691-7404

Secretary		**Treasurer**	
Chris Moriarity	301-458-4380	Jane Li	240-314-2566

Vice Chair for District 2 of Council of Chapters   **Council of Chapters Representative**
Glenn White   202-327-6414   Jonaki Bose   240-276-1257

Representative-at-Large

Brian A. Harris-Kojetin	202-395-7314	Jeri Mulrow	703-292-4784
Jim Knaub	202-586-3014	Elizabeth Margosches	202-564-7636

Student Representative
Timothy Kennel   301-763-6795

WSS Program Chairs

Agriculture and Natural Resources		**Economics**		**Methodology**	
Mel Kollander	703-642-8079	Linda Atkinson	202-694-5046	Brian Meekins	202-691-7594
Mike Fleming	202-366-5419	Anne Polivka	202-691-7395	Keith F. Rust	301-251-8278
Barry Nussbaum	202-566-1493				

Public Health and Biostatistics		**Public Policy**		**Quality Assurance and Physical Sciences**	
Grant Izmirlian	301-496-7519	Michael L. Cohen	202-334-3765	Amrut Champaneri	202-366-5998
Myron Katzoff	301-458-4307	Shelly Martinez	202-395-3147	Alan Jeeves	202-366-4194
		Clint Brownley	412-973-4769		

Defense and National Security		**Human Rignts**	
Wendy Martinez	540-284-1032	Wendy Rotz	202-327-7822
Myron Katzoff	301-458-4307	Hormuzd Katki	301-594-7818

Short Courses		**Social and Demographic Statistics**		**Statistical Computing**	
Sylvia Dohrmann	301-610-5119	Judy Droitcour	202-512-9145	Charlie Hallahan	202-694-5051
		Promod Chandbok	202-366-2158		

Electronic Mail Committee		**Data Collection Methods**		**Membership**	
Michael Greene	301-504-7335	Carol Blumberg	202-586-6565	John Czajka	202-484-4685
S.V. (Vince) Massimini	703- 983-5893	Eugene Burns	202-586-1385	John Dixon	202-691-7516
				Timothy Kennel	301-763-6795
				Adam Safir	202-691-5175
				Fritz Scheuren	202-320-3446

Webmaster		**WSS NEWS Editor**		**Curtis Jacobs Award**	
Dan Jacobs	301- 405-6383	Michael Feil	202-690-3130	Tom Krenzke	301-251-4203

Employment		**Quantitative Literacy**		**Local Arrangements**	
Anne Peterson	703-979-1191	Carolyn Carroll	202-320-8709	Kevin Cecco	202-874-0464

Video Librarian		**Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition**		**Quantitative Literacy Workshop**	
Phil Kalina	703-725-6600	Cammy Fine	202-327-7730	Mark Otto	301-497-5872
		Ryan Petska	202-327-7245		

Social Arrangements		**WSS Committee on ASA Fellows**		**Financial Advisor and Audit Committee**	
Yasmin Said	301-538-7478	Steve Cohen	301-427-1466	Stuart Scott	202-691-7383
Yves Thibaudeau	301-763-1706	Dwight Brock	301-517-4026	R. Clifton Bailey	703-893-8719
Chris Cummiskey	301-704-4576	Carol House	202-720-4333		
		Marilyn Seastrom	202-502-7303		
		Fritz Scheuren	202-320-3446		

Video Coordinator		**Historian**		**Science Fair Coordinator**	
Dan Gillman	202-691-7523	Tom Mule	301-763-8322	Bob Clickner	301-294-2815

Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

RESEARCH CONFERENCE
CALL FOR PAPERS
November 2-4, 2009
Washington, DC

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is planning a research conference to be held at the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, on November 2-4, 2009. The conference will feature mostly contributed papers with formal discussion and software demonstrations on topics related to a variety of statistical research issues. Papers and demonstrations should address methodology, empirical studies, relevant issues, or needs for statistical research. Papers must be original and not previously published or disseminated.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

Survey design and data collection

- Questionnaire design issues
- Improving coverage and response rates
- Instrument design and pretesting
- Survey integration and cross-survey planning
- Treatment of missing data/imputation methods
- Uses of innovative methods for data collection, processing, and dissemination
- Advances in frame development for censuses and surveys
- Model-based survey estimation adjustment
- Innovative methods in sample design and estimation
- Data editing
- Web data collection
- Collection and analysis of survey paradata
- Development of economic statistical indicators

Analysis

- Bayesian statistical methods
- Variance estimation
- Exposure analysis and modeling
- Forecasting, time series, and seasonal adjustment
- Methods of statistical / econometric modeling
- Meta-analysis
- Application of microdata techniques to economic data
- Analysis of complex surveys
- Sample design and estimation

Evaluation

- Census and survey evaluation methodologies
- Innovative approaches to program evaluation
- Measuring data quality
- Nonsampling error: estimation and evaluation

Cross-cutting topics

- Statistical issues in national security
- Confidentiality, privacy, and disclosure issues in data dissemination and linkage
- Data mining, warehousing, and metadata
- Design and analysis of longitudinal studies
- Measurement issues and bridging changes in classification systems
- Use of data for policymaking
- Statistical uses of administrative records
- Nonresponse research
- Usability testing
- Quality standards, best practices, and guidelines
- Quality of administrative records
- Geospatial statistics
- Research on economic measurement concepts and techniques
- Statistical literacy and communication of results

To submit a paper or demonstration for consideration, submit the abstract online by **April 10, 2009**. All conference information can be accessed at the FCSM Web site: **www.fcsm.gov/events**.

To obtain conference information or to be included on the mailing list, contact:

Anna Holaus, Conference Coordinator
Email: fcsm@census.gov
Phone: 301-763-2308
Fax: 301-763-3682

For questions about abstracts contact:

Dawn E. Haines, Program Chair
Email: dawn.e.haines@census.gov
Phone: 301-763-4881
Fax: 301-763-4310

Tentative Schedule of Activities

Activity	Date
Abstracts due	April 10, 2009
Papers Selected/Authors notified	April 27, 2009
Draft paper due	July 31, 2009
Conference registration open	August 3, 2009
Advance program ready	August 14, 2009
Final paper due (CD-ROM)	September 14, 2009
Final program ready	September 21, 2009
Conference dates	November 2-4, 2009
Final paper due (FCSM Web site)	January 8, 2010

- Abstracts should be submitted as early as possible.
- No abstract will be accepted after April 10, 2009.
- Authors/presenters are responsible for their own travel expenses.

Abstracts should include a brief description of the research questions addressed, data sources used, statistical methods employed, and preliminary conclusions reached. The abstract should also include up to five key words; the authors' names and email addresses; plus the presenter's name, affiliation, mailing address, phone and fax numbers. The maximum length of the abstract is 300 words. Submit abstracts online at http://www.fcsm.gov/cgi-bin/conference/submissions