



**WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY**

**WSS NEWS
March 2011**

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Title: Bridging the gap - Bayesian contributions to survey sampling inference

Organizer: Mike Brick, Westat, WSS President

Chair: Adam Safir, BLS, WSS Methodology Program Chair

Speakers: Murray Aitkin, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Melbourne

Discussant: TBD

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 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:

Bayesian contributions to survey sampling inference have been few, but they are very significant. This talk describes the multinomial model for finite populations and the use of empirical likelihood and the Bayesian bootstrap for frequentist and Bayesian inference respectively. Extensions of the Bayesian approach allow for clustering and stratification in a fully Bayesian posterior framework, and also provide formal procedures for goodness of fit of parametric models.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 LECTURES AND SEMINARS (all are invited to attend)
- 7 CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS
- 14 CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS
- 19 STUDENT COLUMN
- 20 SEEKING VOLUNTEERS
- 21 EMPLOYMENT
- 25 FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR
- 26 WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS

Title: **Bridging Livestock Survey Results to Published Estimates through State-Space Models: A Time Series Approach**

Organizer: National Agricultural Statistical Services

Chair: Mel Kollander

Speaker: Stephen M. Busselberg

Date/Time: **Wednesday, April 20, 2011 12:30 - 1:30 p.m**

Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center.

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.

Sponsors: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Economics

Abstract:

Survey sampling in order to estimate livestock inventories on farms in the United States is challenging for several reasons. There exists a problem of undercoverage due to a rapidly changing industry; control data is not strongly correlated with actual inventory (therefore the sampling design is limited); and there are external sources that provide accurate information about related statistics, such as federally inspected slaughter counts, commodity imports, and exports. For these reasons the livestock inventory estimates produced from a survey sampling design are often incongruous with these nonproprietary statistics and the exact survey results are not published. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) plans to address this problem through the application of a State-Space modeling system. This presentation demonstrates through the example of the hog industry how a State-Space system, in conjunction with the Kalman Filter, can achieve estimates concordant with external data.

POC: Stephen_Busselberg@nass.usda.gov

Title: Issues Regarding the Use of Administrative Records in Federal Surveys**Organizer:** John Eltinge, BLS, WSS Past-President**Chair:** Adam Safir, BLS, WSS Methodology Program Chair**Speakers:** Nancy Bates, U.S. Bureau of the Census
Joanne Pascale, U.S. Bureau of the Census**Discussant:** TBD**Location:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 10

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Sponsor: Methodology Program, WSS**Abstract:****Concerns about Privacy, Trust in Government, and Willingness to Use Administrative Records to Improve the Decennial Census**

For at least twenty years, the Census Bureau has been considering the use of administrative records to enhance data collection for the decennial census. Beginning with a series of focus groups in 1992, public reactions to the potential use of administrative records have intermittently been the focus of Census Bureau research. In 1995, the Census Bureau sponsored a survey of knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes toward the Census Bureau's confidentiality practices and the use of administrative records to supplement or replace household enumeration. The following year, the survey was replicated. Two more such surveys were carried out in 1999 and 2000 and finally replicated again in 2010.

This presentation will cover two areas. First, we trace trends in attitudes toward administrative record use as well as related constructs such as privacy and confidentiality concerns, trust in government, and importance attached to the decennial census by means of the replicated surveys described above. As we shall show, these trends are predominantly negative, especially in the most recent period. Second, we model attitudes toward using administrative records to augment the census from a set of demographic characteristics, including age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, party identification, and region. We also include attitudes toward privacy, toward government, and toward the census itself as predictors. The aim is to understand the basis for attitudes toward administrative records use to the extent that this is possible.

Requesting Consent to Link Survey Data to Administrative Records: Preliminary Results from the Survey of Health Insurance and Program Participation (SHIPP)

Administrative records have begun to play a key role in survey research and, while policies regarding consent are still in flux, there is general agreement that research is needed on how to request consent from respondents to link their survey data with administrative records. Previous research found that 26 percent of those initially opposed to data sharing shifted their position when prompted with arguments about potential improvements in accuracy and reductions in cost (Singer and Presser, 1996). In order to take these findings further, in the spring of 2010 a field experiment was carried out by the US Census Bureau which included three panels, each presenting a different rationale to the respondent for data linkage: improved accuracy, reduced costs, and reduced respondent burden.

Somewhat contrary to expectations, there was no statistically significant difference in consent rates across the three versions of the consent question. Overall levels of consent, however, were rather high (84 percent), and represented a shift of more than 20 percentage points compared to a similar study in 2004. Demographic analysis indicated that age and non-response to a household income question were predictors of both levels of consent and missing data on key variables needed to make that linkage. Education was also associated with levels of consent. And finally, there was some evidence of interviewer effects; one of the three interviewer groups had a lower rate of respondent objections to consent and a higher rate of obtaining complete reporting on key fields of data used for record linkage.

Title: **CropScape: A new web based visualization portal for the dissemination of NASS geospatial cropland products**

Organizer: National Agricultural Statistical Services

Speaker: Rick Mueller

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/time: **Wednesday, May 11, 2011 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center.

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: Agriculture and Natural Resources

Abstract:

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began producing national crop specific land cover classifications called the Cropland Data Layer (CDL) starting in 2009. The CDL data are widely used for a variety of applications for climate and environmental ecosystem monitoring, health research, agribusiness decision support, and internally for NASS crop acreage and yield statistical estimation. To facilitate the application and dissemination of this data layer, a web-service based interactive map visualization, dissemination, and querying system called CropScape (<http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape>) was constructed. CropScape adopts a service oriented architecture and Open Geospatial Consortium standards and specifications compliant web services, and re-uses functions/algorithms from the George Mason University developed GeoBrain Technology. CropScape enables on-line US cropland exploring, visualization, queries, and dissemination via interactive maps. The data can be directly exported to ArcGIS Explorer and Google Earth for mashups or delivered to other applications via web services. This system greatly improves equal-accessibility, visualization, and dissemination and facilitates crop geospatial information usage.

POC: Rick_Mueller@nass.usda.gov

Title: **Using statistics to solve the medical mystery of the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)**

Speaker: David T. Mage, (WHO and USEPA, Retired),

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/time: **Wednesday, June 15, 2011 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center.

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: Agriculture and Natural Resources

Abstract:

The Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is a diagnosis of exclusion in the absence of finding any sufficient cause of death at autopsy and death scene investigation. The ages of SIDS have a 4-parameter lognormal (Johnson SB) distribution that is apparently SIDS most unique and characteristic property, so any theory for the cause of SIDS must explain its universality.

The four parameters of this distribution appear to apply to all countries and have remained virtually constant during the period of redefinition of SIDS and change of preferred sleeping position from prone to supine in which the SIDS rate decreased dramatically. These data are shown to obey Cramer's Theorem in that age distributions of male SIDS, female SIDS, and Sudden Unexpected Death in infancy (SUDI) [defined here as 'SIDS mentioned on death certificate as a possibility but other possible cause assigned'] have similar age distributions to SIDS where it is the only cause of death given on the certificate.

The proposed universal SIDS age Normal Transform is $y = \text{Log}[(m - a)/(b - m)]$, where $y = \mu + \sigma z$, m is age in months, z is a standard normal deviate, and $\mu = -1.05$ and $\sigma = 0.291$ are median and standard deviation of y . $a = -0.31$ month and $b = 41.2$ months are the 3rd and 4th parameters, respectively. For these fixed 3rd and 4th parameters the relative constancy of the mean and standard deviation of the SIDS and SUDI age distributions over many years implies that its parameters are both universal and independent of sleep position. [Internation Journal of Pediatrics 2009 (Free on-line),Scandinavian Journal of Forensic Sciences, 2010;16(1) and 2011;17(1) in press]

POC: MageDonner@aol.com

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

Event: The 18th Federal Forecasters Conference

Date/Time: April 21 2011, 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington DC, 20212
Take the Red Line to Union Station. Bring a photo ID to the conference.

Sponsors:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration/Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs, Economic Research Service, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Internal Revenue Service, International Trade Administration, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Postal Service, and Center for Economic Research, George Washington University

Theme:

Environmental issues have become an increasing priority for governments, businesses, and consumers. Challenges to forecasters include the implementation of programs and policies addressing efficiency, alternative energy sources, jobs, health, air and water quality, transportation, land use, and recycling programs. The 2011 Federal Forecasters Conference will examine how forecasters face this challenge and how policy-makers and other decision-makers use forecasts to make decisions.

Description:

For further information visit www.federalforecasters.org or contact Pheny Weidman at pheny.weidman@dot.gov; (202) 366-2817.

Event: **GDRR 2011 - Second Symposium on GAMES AND DECISIONS IN RELIABILITY AND RISK**

Host: CNR IMATI and Institute for Integrating Statistics in Decision Sciences,
George Washington University

(Confirmed) Speakers:

Simon French, Miguel Lejeune, Massimo Marinacci, Jorge Mateu, Robert Nau, Nicholas Polson, David Rios Insua, Renata Rotondi, Marco Scarcini, Nozer Singpurwalla, Jim Q. Smith, Fabio Spizzichino, Fabio Trojani and Robert Wolpert

Date: **May 19-21, 2011**

Location: Hotel Villa Carlotta, Belgirate (VB), Lake Maggiore, Italy

Description:

The symposium follows the one held in Washington at George Washington University in 2009.

The objective of the symposium is to present novel use of game and decision theory in reliability and risk analysis and to bring together researchers from disciplines such as economics, engineering, finance, mathematics, medical sciences, probability and statistics who have a lot to contribute to this theme.

Event: **Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research Conference**

Date: **January 10-12, 2012 (Save the date!)**

Location: Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

Description:

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is planning a research conference to be held at the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, on **January 10-12, 2012.**

Abstract Submission:

To submit a paper or demonstration for consideration, submit the abstract via email to fcsm@census.gov as soon as possible but no later than **May 6, 2011.** Use the template found at www.fcsm.gov/events/ for your submission. The maximum length of abstracts is 300 words and should include up to five key words. Please note that authors/ presenters are responsible for their travel expenses, but the registration fee is waived for one presenter per paper.

Tentative Schedule of Activities:

Activity	Date
Abstracts due	May 6, 2011
Papers selected/Authors notified	June 22, 2011
Advance program ready	September 2011
Conference registration open	October 3, 2011
Draft paper due to Organizers/Chairs	November 16, 2011
Final program ready	December 2011
Conference dates	January 10-12, 2012
Final paper due (FCSM Web site)	March 2012

POC:

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

Anna Holaus, Conference Coordinator

fcsm@census.gov

Phone: 202-874-0464

Fax: 301-763-3682

For questions about abstracts contact:

Kevin Cecco, Program Chair

Email: Kevin.Cecco@irs.gov

Phone: 301-763-2308

Call for Papers:**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
- Responsive survey design
- Advances in frame development
- Model-based survey estimation adjustment
- Innovative methods in sample design and estimation
- New edit and imputation methodologies
- Multi-mode and web data collection
- Survey redesign

Estimation and analysis

- Bayesian statistical methods
- Variance estimation
- Small area 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
- Estimation of immigration/emigration
- Collection and analysis of survey paradata
- Analysis of complex surveys

Evaluation

- Census and survey evaluation methodologies

- Evaluating mode effects
- Identifying and reducing sources of survey error
- Measuring process and data quality
- Nonsampling error: estimation and evaluation
- Innovative approaches to program evaluation
- Nonresponse and measurement error research

Cross-cutting topics

- Impact of the global economy on national statistics
- Statistical issues in national security, healthcare reform, housing, financial well-being, and the environment
- Special issues related to establishment Surveys
- 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 and quality of administrative records
- Data sharing and linking
- Usability testing
- Quality standards, best practices, and guidelines
- Geospatial statistics
- Economic measurement concepts and techniques
- Development of economic statistical indicators
- Statistical literacy and communication of results

Event: **Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys**

Host: Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions

Date: **June 11–14, 2012**

Location: Sheraton Centre Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada

Description:

The ICES series of conferences serves an important role in the world of survey methodology. Few other conferences focus on methods and applications for establishment surveys.

The first three conferences held in 1993, 2000 and 2007 were successful, with more than 400 attendees per conference. The conferences covered a spectrum of survey methods for businesses, farms, and institutions. The fourth conference will continue along this path. Examples of potential topics include the following:

- Updating business registers
- Sample design challenges
- Questionnaire design for establishment surveys
- Collecting data electronically from establishment surveys
- Issues of multi-mode data collection
- Factors that affect establishment survey participation
- Generalized survey processing systems for establishment surveys
- Measuring nonresponse bias
- Variance estimation
- Advances in disclosure protection
- Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
- New directions in establishment surveys

The conference will include short courses, a keynote speaker, poster sessions, software demonstrations, and invited and contributed paper sessions. Online solicitation for contributed papers will occur **June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011**.

Inquiries may be directed to ices4@amstat.org.

Invited Paper Session Proposals:

Deadline to submit a proposal for an invited paper session has *passed*.

The ICES-IV program committee will review submitted proposals and notify session organizers by the end of May 2011 to let them know whether their proposal has been accepted.

Invited sessions will have three 25-minute presentations, a 15-minute formal discussion in which a discussant draws out the main themes of the session and asks questions of the authors, and a 5–10-minute floor discussion.

Session Proposals:

Deadline for online submission of invited session proposals has *passed*.

If a session proposal is accepted, session presenters will be asked to upload an abstract to the conference system by September 30, 2011. If a proposal is not accepted as an invited session, the organizer will be invited to resubmit the session as a topic-contributed session. The deadline for contributed papers (including topic-contributed sessions) is August 31, 2011. Information about the differences between the invited and contributed sessions and their formats is available at www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012.

Event: **International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Reach Populations**

Host: H2R12012: Survey Methods for Hard-to-Reach Populations

Date: **October 31–November 3, 2012**

Location: Marriott New Orleans at the Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Description:

The H2R 2012 conference will bring together survey methodologists, sociologists, statisticians, demographers, ethnographers, and other professionals from around the world to present new and innovative techniques for surveying hard-to-reach populations. Addressing both the statistical and survey design aspects of including hard-to-reach groups, researchers will report findings from censuses, surveys, and other research related to the identification, definition, measurement, and methodologies for surveying and enumerating undercounted populations.

Identifying, Defining, and Measuring the Hard-to-Reach (H2R)

Defining H2R populations
Measuring undercounts for H2R groups
Improving measurement with administrative records
Sampling H2R populations

Techniques and Methodologies

Recruitment methods
Targeting the H2R
Use of social marketing and outreach campaigns
Overcoming language and literacy barriers
Use of community-based organizations

Dealing with complex living and housing situations
Tracking and tracing H2R populations

H2R Subpopulations

Racial minorities
Immigrant populations
Indigenous populations
Highly mobile and migrant populations
Homeless and refugee populations
Sexual minorities
Populations affected by natural disasters
Populations in zones of armed conflict
Stigmatized populations
Cross-cultural similarities and differences in H2R populations
Linguistic and cultural minorities

Call for Submissions

February–March 2011: Invited Call for Submissions

April–May 2011: Contributed Call for Submissions

Information: (website) www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012
(email) H2R2012@amstat.org.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY - SHORT COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Analysis of Complex Sample Survey Data

April 14-15, 2011

- In order to extract maximum information at minimum cost, survey designs are typically more complex than simple random samples. Clustered and stratified sample designs are common. This course discusses methods for analyzing and making inferences with complex sample survey data. The course will be lecture-based, but participants may bring their own laptop computers with software for the analysis of survey data installed to follow along with the examples.
- Registration Deadline: **April 1, 2011**

Day 1: An Overview of Complex Sample Designs and Methods for Inference

- Complex Samples and Design Effects in Survey Estimation and Inference
- Weighting and Complex Sample Inference
- Sampling Error Calculation: Taylor Series Linearization Method and Replication Techniques
- Software for Sampling Error Estimation
- Inference for Descriptive Statistics

Day 2: Analytic Methods and Software for Analysis of Survey Data

- Subpopulation Analysis, Percentiles, Functions of Descriptive Statistics
- Analysis of Categorical Data
- Linear Regression Analysis and Logistic Regression Analysis of Complex Sample Survey Data

About the Instructors:

Dr. Steven G. Heeringa is the Director of the Statistical Design Group at the University of Michigan (UM) Institute for Social Research and a faculty member of the UM Program in Survey Methods (MPSM) and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. **Mr. Brady T. West** is a Ph.D. candidate at MSPM and a Lead Statistician at the UM Center for Statistical Consultation and Research. Dr. Heeringa and Mr. West, along with Pat Berglund, authored *Applied Survey Data Analysis* (Chapman and Hall, 2010) and both have extensive experiences with teaching survey sampling and analysis methods.

Who Should Attend:

Participants should have a working knowledge of applied statistical analysis. Background in applied survey sampling is recommended but not required. No knowledge of specific software is required.

Schedule for Course:

The course will be held 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM during April 14th and 15th. There will be coffee and light breakfast items in the morning before class both days. Lunch will also be provided both days.

Location:

BLS Conference Center (Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212-0001)

Registration Fee:

The book "Applied Survey Data Analysis" (Chapman and Hall, 2010) is not required for the course, but highly recommended by the instructors.

Fees

Full-time Students (only 5 slots available)

\$65 without book, \$125 with book

WSS Member

\$275 without book, \$335 with book

Other Registrants

\$325 without book \$385 with book

Registration

Register at <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=vbkcm>

Class size is limited. Please register early.

Additional Information

Please contact DaifengHan@westat.com or WendyVandeKerckhove@Westat.com.

JPSM Short Course

Main site: www.jpsm.org

Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

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

April 18-19, 2011

Writing Questions for Surveys: A Workshop

Nora Cate Schaeffer

Registration Deadline: April 4, 2011

April 28-29, 2011

The Psychology of Survey Responses

Roger Tourangeau and Frederick Conrad

Registration Deadline: April 14, 2011

May 2011 Dates to be determined

Analysis and Presentation of Economic Data

Katharine G. Abraham and Deborah P. Klein

June 13-14, 2011

Methods for Longitudinal Surveys

Peter Lynn

Registration Deadline: May 30, 2011

**Forthcoming Info-Metrics Workshops and Summer Classes:
(Announcements and Call for Papers)**

Info-Metrics Institute

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC

<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/econometrics.cfm>

Registration and additional information about activities, reports, etc., see:

<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/index.cfm>

WORKSHOPS:

Spring 2011

Info-Metrics Across the Sciences, May 2, 2011, Washington DC, USA

<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/index.cfm>

Fall 2011 (October)

Philosophy of Information, October 3, 2011, Washington DC, USA

<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2011-fall.cfm>

Fall 2011 (November)

Information Theory and Shrinkage Estimation, November 12, 2011, Washington DC, USA

<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2011-november.cfm>

Spring 2012 (March)

Information and Econometrics of Networks, March 30-31, 2012, Washington DC, USA

<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2012-spring.cfm>

SUMMER PROGRAM:

May 9-13, 2011

Info-Metrics: Theory and Practice

Instructor: Amos Golan (American U)

May 23-27, 2011

Spatial Econometrics: Theory and Practice

Instructor: Ingmar Prucha, U. of Maryland College Park

Five-Week Online SAS Training in Summer

The Department of Statistics, George Mason University will be offering a 5-week introductory course in SAS programming in Summer 2011 from 6/6/011 to 7/10/2011. This is a perfect opportunity to become facile with one of technology's leading software packages to perform data management and data analysis using modern statistical methodology, from the comfort of home or office.

The course is offered completely online and does not require coming to campus. The course is taught by Dr. Linda Davis, Associate Professor of Statistics. Dr. Davis holds a Ph.D. in Statistics from Rutgers University and is an expert in data analysis and applied statistical methods.

There are two mechanisms to register for the training course:

STAT 501: a one credit graduate course; registration is through GMU Summer Programs registration; non-GMU students must apply as a non-degree student by April 22, 2011.

Continuing Education: not for credit, fee \$500. Register at http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/seminars/sas_programming.php

Summer Statistics Courses at George Mason University

- STAT 250 Introductory Statistics I
- STAT 250 (Distance Education) Introductory Statistics I
- STAT 344 Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists I
- STAT 350 Introductory Statistics II
- STAT 501 (Distance Education) SAS Language and Basic Procedures
- STAT 789 Bootstrapping Methods

Contact: William F. Rosenberger, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman
George Mason University, Department of Statistics, Volgenau School of Engineering
4400 University Drive, MS 4A7
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
Phone: 703-993-3645
FAX: 703-993-1700

wrosenbe@gmu.edu

webpage: <http://statistics.gmu.edu>, <http://summer.gmu.edu>

STUDENT COLUMN

Bradley Patterson student representative from the Department of Statistics at George Mason University has written about the Department. We will hear more from the GMU students' activities later.

"For this initial article from students in the Department of Statistics at George Mason University, I am glad to report on several topics. To start, the number of graduate students is as large as ever. We now have 70 Masters and 20 PhD students. As new students are enrolling, we also are wishing our graduates bright futures. This past December we celebrated the doctoral defense of our classmate, Victoria Plamadeala, whose dissertation is titled "Randomization-Based Inference for Sequential Clinical Trials Using Biased Coin Randomization." We hope to congratulate two more classmates, Ting Dong and Liang Li, whom we anticipate will defend their dissertations this spring.

In the coming year we look forward to welcoming a new faculty member, Dr. Hughes-Oliver, from North Carolina State University, where she has been a faculty member for nearly two decades. Her research interests include genomics, drug discovery, chemometrics, data mining, and engineering. Our department is currently considering candidates for another faculty position to begin next fall as well.

We also extend an invitation to everyone to attend our department's weekly statistics seminars, typically held at 1:00 PM on Fridays. Statisticians from around the world come to present their research. Please visit our web site, statistics.gmu.edu, to find details on upcoming seminars.

Our next column will feature more updates on students' research activities, both within the department and for summer internships."

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Web Volunteers Needed

To communicate more effectively with our members, the Washington Statistical Society is developing a new web site. The design, major functions, and main pages of the new site will be created by our vendor using a content management system. We are looking for volunteers to help with other tasks. These include:

1. Use the new content management system to create additional web pages.
2. Help convert email functions to operate with Constant Contact®.

No special skills are needed — just good attention to detail and familiarity with web browsers.

If you would like to help, or if you would like more information, please write to Phil Kalina at wssvolunteer@philkalina.com.

Thank you.

EMPLOYMENT

JOB OPENING FOR PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY METHODOLOGIST

Office of Opinion Research in the U.S. Department of State

The Office of Opinion Research at the U.S. Department of State is looking for a well-qualified STATISTICIAN with a strong background in survey methodology and solid experience with public opinion polls.

Where? Washington, DC

What level? GS-13 (\$89,033.00 - \$115,742.00 a year)

What we need:

We are an office of survey research and area specialists who design and conduct international public opinion research on political, economic, social, and security issues. We're looking for someone who can advise us on:

- Overall survey design (including innovative research designs for challenging environments or hard-to-reach populations)
- Sampling strategies for stringent probability-based sampling in face-to-face, telephone, online or mixed mode/multiple-frame surveys
- Questionnaire design (including measuring constructs such as political efficacy, social distance and nationalism)
- Advanced multivariate analysis of public opinion data with a wide range of strategies for identifying significant patterns, segmenting potential audiences and estimating sampling error in complex sample designs

A successful candidate will also have excellent communication skills to be able to train other members of the staff in research design, sampling, and statistical analysis.

This job is open to all U.S. citizens.

POC: Anna Dean, Acting Director, Office of Opinion Research (DeanAS@state.gov)

Posting: Available later this spring at <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/>. Keyword: **Statistician**



**ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR for
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT and TECHNOLOGY (RD&T)**

**RESEARCH and INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY
ADMINISTRATION (RITA)
within the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Washington, DC

Client:

The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) coordinates the U.S. Department of Transportation's research and education programs, and is working to bring advanced technologies into the transportation system. RITA also offers vital transportation statistics and analysis, and supports national efforts to improve education and training in transportation-related fields. RITA works to ensure that the nation's transportation research investments produce results for the American people.

Opportunity:

The Associate Administrator (AA) for Research, Development and Technology (RD&T) plays a critical role in fulfilling RITA's primary mission in coordination, facilitation, and review of U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) cross-modal research and development programs and activities. The AA is a visionary leader who can build and develop a professional staff, foster collaboration among researchers, program managers and agencies across the U.S. DOT and with external stakeholders; is responsible for fostering innovation in transportation, performing strategic planning for federal and U.S. DOT transportation research and development; and managing DOT-wide transportation advanced technology, research, education and technology transfer programs. The AA establishes a vision for the Office of RD&T and actively finds ways to engage staff members and external stakeholders.

The AA participates in, and leads, policy functions and interdepartmental and cross-modal councils dealing with federal and U.S. DOT transportation science and technology. This includes developing federal and U.S. DOT transportation science and technology policy and strategy, conducting and expanding outreach, facilitating public-private partnerships, fostering long-term research, and furthering workforce development through university transportation research and education programs. The AA is a convenor who integrates a collaborative spirit in all of their work, is actively engaged in the transportation research community, and has full authority to speak and act for the Administrator and Deputy Administrator on matters related to the establishment, interpretation, and application of policies in assigned functions.

Education: Masters or PhD in an analytical discipline highly preferred.

Compensation: Up to \$179,700 as well as eligibility of a performance-based bonus. Permanent change of station expenses will be paid. This is a Senior Executive Service-level position.

EEO: All candidates will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Deadline: To be considered, applications must be received no later than midnight, March 28, 2011. Please refer to the how to apply section of the vacancy announcement RITA-11-003-NG at the USAJOBS website (<http://www.usajobs.gov/>).

Citizenship: U.S. Citizenship required.

Contact: Jennifer Moss - JDG Associates, Ltd.
Phone: (301) 340-2210/ Email: moss@jdgsearch.com

JDG Associates, established in 1973, is a leading provider of executive recruiting services to the Federal government, associations/non-profits, Fortune 1000 corporations, and a variety of government contractors.

Data Analytics positions – Arlington, VA

Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP advises clients on managing business controversy and conflict, executing deals, and maintaining regulatory compliance. We provide services to companies throughout their lifecycle from purchasing a company to investigating potential fraud.

Seeking various levels to join the Analytic & Forensic Technology - Data Analytics practice. This is not a "back-office programmer" position; this is front-line client interaction with tremendous opportunity for growth and advancement.

Commercial investigations and litigations increasingly rely on collecting, preserving and analyzing vast amounts of data to help tell the whole story. The key to managing such huge volumes is turning the array of data into meaningful information. To this end, our Analytic and Forensic Technology (AFT) professionals combine forensic accounting and investigative skills with advanced technology to assist clients and their legal counsel.

The Analytic and Forensic Technology - Data Analytics job responsibilities include:

- *Gather, standardize, and analyze transactional electronic data (e.g., banking records, general ledgers, broker-dealer records, sales and inventory data, etc.).
- * Create, manage, and utilize high performance relational databases (SAS,SQL Server, Microsoft Access, OLAP and other proprietary software).
- * Query and mine large data sets to discover transaction patterns, examine financial data and filter for targeted information.
- * Design data entry screens, perform data quality control, develop database reports and user interfaces, and normalize relational data.
- * AFT team members collaborate with attorneys, forensic accountants, clients, and other investigators to produce analyses in support of an investigation.

Required Skills:

Bachelors degree, mining and analyzing transactional electronic data, and SAS/SQL
Not required but a plus: Microsoft Access, Visual Basic .Net, ASP .Net ,OLAP tools

Interested applicants, please email resume to aclem@deloitte.com, and reference the job title in the subject header.

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **April 2011** issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15th** of the preceding month.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format (e.g., in an email) will be returned.



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