

WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

March, 2012

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CURRENTLY IN WSS

Please Volunteer for Curtis Jacobs Award Science Fair Blitz!

We are looking for help in recruiting participants for an hour or two for the WSS Curtis Jacobs Award during the upcoming science fairs in the WSS area, specifically **Montgomery County on March 17 and Northern Virginia on March 3.**

Through past planning discussions with Karol Krotki, Clyde Tucker, and others, it is envisioned, and hoped, that a more targeted effort toward encouraging students associated with science fair projects will help improve the participation in the WSS Curtis Jacobs Award, and begin new awareness to the award for the future. Last year, we had the most participants in recent years due to this new focus. We are hoping that this award will bring reward to individuals, and help them, through their teachers, pursue statistical careers that will improve society. Below are the objectives, next steps, and a summary table with info about the location, and dates for the science fairs.

At the science fair, there are the following objectives and guidelines:

- Identify projects at the science fair that fit the requirements of the Curtis Jacobs award. They do not need to be the gold medal winners, but rather we are looking for any who are qualified.
- Spend time with the student and/or teacher going through the brochure
- Discuss the perks of the award – resume material, teacher development, Cash prize, Meeting within a Meeting, etc.
- Discuss what the next step is – simply submit the science fair report
- Gather contact information (email preferred)
- Follow-up with the individuals/teachers after two weeks

Please review the dates and times of the science fairs and please consider volunteering for a science fair. If interested and available, please send me an email (tomkrenzke@westat.com) by **Wednesday, Feb 29th**.

Please let me know which area science fair location. Then, I ask that you please send me your mailing address so that I can send you brochures to handout while you are at the science fair. Then please review the handout for the requirements for the reward. Information about the requirements are available on the web as well @ <http://www.scs.gmu.edu/~wss/jacobs.pdf>. I will then send an email to Gloria Gridley (the WSS science fair coordinator) so that she can register you to ensure you can get into the facility on that day. Its typically that Saturday morning, and an hour or two of your time is needed.

County/Area	Date	Location	City	Website
Northern VA	3/3	Wakefield HS	Arlington, VA	http://local.ans.org/dc/sciencefair.pdf
Montgomery	3/17	Reckford Armory Building, U of MD	College Park, MD	http://www.sciencemontgomery.org/

Thanks very much for considering being involved in the award process.

Sincerely,

--Tom Krenzke
Chair of the Curtis Jacobs Award Committee

Seeking Nominations for the WSS Board of Directors

Later this spring, the WSS will hold its annual elections for several important positions on its Board of Directors.

For the **2012** elections, the open positions include:

- **President-Elect**
 - for July, 2012 to June, 2013
 - to serve as President July, 2013 June, 2014 and Past President July, 2014 to June, 2015
- **Treasurer**
 - for July, 2012 to June, 2014
- **Two Representatives-at-Large**
 - for July, 2012 to June, 2014
- **Methodology Program Chair**
 - for July, 2012 to June, 2013
 - to serve as Methodology Section Chair July, 2013 to June, 2014

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. For the 2012 election, nominees for President-Elect will be from the government sector. For any other position, nominations may come from either the government or non-government sectors.

For all of the positions listed above, we heartily welcome nominations from any member of the Washington Statistical Society. Please e-mail your nominations to Past President Mike Brick (Mikebrick@westat.com) by **March 1, 2012**.

– **Mike Brick, former WSS President**



**The Washington Academy of Sciences and its Affiliates
(Including WSS) Present Capital Science 2012 to be held
March 31 - April 1**

**Washington Academy of Sciences with WSS to Host the
Capital Science Conference**

On Saturday and Sunday, March 31-April 1, 2012, The Washington Academy of Sciences and its Affiliates (WSS is an Affiliate) will hold the fifth in the series of our biennial pan-Affiliate Conferences, Capital Science 2012. This will be the first CapSci to be hosted by a consortium of the three universities that line the University Corridor on Glebe Road in Arlington Virginia -- Virginia Tech, GWU, and Marymount. **(Near the Ballston stop on the Metro)**. Registration and plenaries will be held at the new Virginia Tech facility at 900 North Glebe Road. Additional classrooms will be next door at GWU and at Marymount, just across Fairfax Drive.

With over 20 Affiliates participating, the Conference will serve as an umbrella for scientific presentations, seminars, tutorials, and talks. These pan-Affiliate Conferences underline the fact that the Washington, DC area is not only the political capital of the country but, in many respects, the nation's intellectual capital -- with several major universities and government laboratories that are the homes of an astonishing number of Nobel laureates. The Academy believes that showcasing the intellectual muscle of the area will help provide the support needed to continue to build and keep the United States at the forefront of scientific achievement.

Registration information is now available at www.washacadsci.org/capsci2/body.htm One can register on-line. WSS members get the member rate. Register by March 4 to get the early bird rate.

Check the web site for additional information. More details will be provided as the conference gets closer. Also, the WSS representative to the Academy, Michael P. Cohen, may be contacted at mpcohen@juno.com if you have questions.

SEMINARS

Title: **Geo-Spatial tools in Abu Dhabi Census 2011**

Speakers:

Yousef Al Hammadi, PhD.
Survey Planning, Design and Processing Department Manager
Statistics Centre Abu Dhabi (SCAD)

Chair:

Michael P. Cohen, American Institutes for Research

Date & Time: **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 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

Abstract:

Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi's (SCAD's) mission statement reads, "... provide relevant and reliable official statistics serving policy makers, the business community and the public". SCAD is motivated by this mission and produces quality statistics so users can make informed, evidence-based decisions for the betterment of the citizens of the Emirate.

In 2011, SCAD undertook its first census. From the outset, SCAD declared its commitment to conducting the Census using state-of-the-art technologies for collecting, managing, storing and disseminating census data. In terms of geographic information systems (GIS), SCAD employed spatial technology in three statistical production processes: 1. Design and production of enumeration areas; 2. Census collection using geo-enabled iPads; and 3. Census dissemination - on-line thematic maps.

1. Design and production of enumeration areas: ESRI's ArcGIS was used for map design and production of more than 4,200 enumerator work areas (WA) and 11,300 enumerator sub-work areas (SWA). All maps were quality checked and reviewed.

2. Census collection using geo-enabled iPads: SCAD is one of the first statistical organisations in the world to conduct Census household interviews exclusively using iPad and Galaxy mobile devices. Each iPad

contained interactive questionnaires (Arabic/English), GPS, mapping system, and reference material.

3. Census dissemination - on-line thematic maps. In collaboration with SAS Middle East, SCAD is developing a range of on-line statistical tools that give greater utilisation of the rich census data than has been available previously.

The web-based tools include Census Thematic maps; Census Community Tables; and a Census Table Builder. The on-line thematic maps provide a unique visual representation of many Census variables making 'clusters' or 'hot spots' easily identifiable.

POC email:

ysalhammadi@scad.ae

Title: **Measuring Household Relationships in Federal Surveys**

Panelists: Nancy Bates (Census), Martin O'Connell (Census), Andrew Zukerberg (NCES), Sarah Grady (AIR)

Date & Time: **March 15, 2012, 12:30p to 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: WSS Public Policy and Methodology Chairs

Abstract:

Measurement of household and marital relationships in Federal surveys is used to understand how people in the US live and the resources available to them to care for dependents. Household relationship data is also used to inform program eligibility decisions and public policy more generally.

As households in the US continue to change, careful review and revision of measures over time is needed. Panelists from the Census Bureau will present current research on measurement error in counting same-sex households in the 2010 Census and present qualitative results from testing alternative ways to ask about household relationships and marital status. Panelists from the National Center for Education Statistics and the American Institutes for Research will present the results of a split panel experiment designed to test two different approaches to collecting parent and household information about a sampled child.

Note:

Audio Conferencing is available.
Video conferencing is not available.



JPSM Distinguished Lecture Series



Do survey respondents lie? Situated cognition and socially desirable responding

Norbert Schwarz
University of Michigan

Survey researchers commonly assume that people know what they do, know what they believe, and can report on it “with candor and accuracy,” as Angus Campbell put it. From this perspective, many findings suggest that survey respondents are less than “candid”. The best known example is the observation that answers to racial attitude questions vary as a function of the interviewer’s race. Challenging this interpretation, a large body of social psychological research shows similar context effects under conditions that do not lend themselves to this interpretation, including conditions that use implicit attitude measures, which are not subject to deliberate “faking”. From a situated cognition perspective, such findings reflect that attitude questions assess context sensitive evaluations that respondents form on the spot, drawing on information that is accessible at that point in time. The underlying processes operate in daily life as well as in survey interviews and reflect the situated nature of human judgment rather than a deliberate attempt to report a socially desirable answer. I review relevant findings and discuss their implications for survey measurement.

Friday, March 30, 2012, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
2205 LeFrak Hall, University of Maryland, College Park

Discussants: Paul Beatty, NCHS and David Cantor, Westat

Please join us for a reception afterwards. For direction see www.jpsm.umd.edu

Title: **Measuring Sexual Identity in Federal Surveys**

Panelists: Kristen Miller (NCHS), Susan Newcomer (NICHD)

Date & Time: **April 19, 2012, 12:30pm to 2:00pm**

Location:

BLS 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.

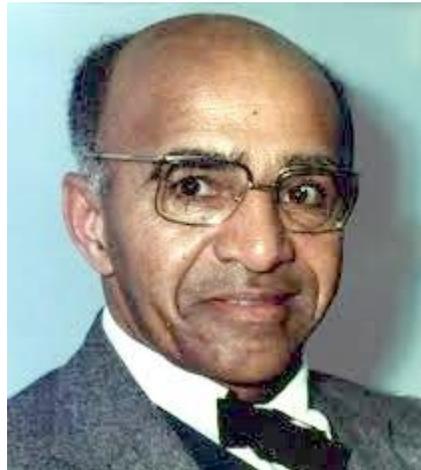
Sponsor: WSS Public Policy and Methodology Chairs

Abstract:

The Institute of Medicine reported in March, 2011 that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and other sexual and gender minority populations experience substantial health risks. Improved measurement of sexual identity in Federal surveys will support greater effectiveness of health interventions and services for individuals within those groups. Research to date on the construct and design of existing sexual identity questions will be presented, and test results of a revised version for use in the National Health Interview Survey will be discussed.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

Event: David Blackwell Memorial Conference
Date: April 19 – 20, 2012
Location: Howard University, Washington, D.C.
Description:



[Dr. David Blackwell](#)

Dr. David Blackwell, a mathematician and statistician, made phenomenal contributions to probability theory, statistics and game theory and was the first black scholar to be admitted to the National Academy of Sciences passed away on July 8, 2010 at the age of 91. Even though he encountered the many difficulties that African Americans experienced in society, and in particular, the mathematical community, he prevailed to become the "*greatest African American mathematician*". He came to Howard University in 1944 and in just three years, he was appointed to full professor and head of the Mathematics Department. In 1954 he left Howard to go to University of California, Berkeley where he spent the rest of his career. At Berkeley, he became the first black tenured professor.

This two-day conference brings together leading theoretical and applied mathematicians, statisticians, and other scientists to:

1. Recognize and acknowledge Dr. Blackwell's myriad contributions to scholarship in multiple areas and disciplines.
2. Discuss how Dr. Blackwell's work shapes and influences the field-at-large and their respective scholarship.
3. Explore and develop new ideas and approaches to questions arising from mathematics and statistics.
4. Provide a forum for a diverse group of undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty to interact and collaborate with experts in the field of mathematics and statistics.

Evidence of Dr. Blackwell's intellectual contributions is visible in many arenas and scholars continue to build on that knowledge base. In so doing, conference participants continuously underscore and reinforce the intellectual merit of Dr. Blackwell's and their own work. The conference is an opportunity for intellectual exchange and discourse among scholars from diverse backgrounds. As new generations of scholars from increasingly diverse backgrounds enter the fields of mathematics and statistics, through the Dr. David Blackwell Memorial Conference, they become members of the community of scholars who innovate and make breakthroughs within their respective fields.

For additional information or to register, visit

<https://sites.google.com/site/conferenceblackwell/home/introduction>

Event: **Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS 2012)**

Date: **May 21-23, 2012**

Hosts: United Nations European Commission Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Office of the Conference of European Statisticians European Union (Eurostat)/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OCED) Statistics Directorate

Location: Offices of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington, D.C.

Description:

The Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems will be held at the Offices of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C., United States, from May 21 to 23, 2012, starting at 9.30 a.m.

The Meeting is primarily intended for IT managers from statistical organizations and other specialists responsible for the coordination, planning and management of complex projects in statistical information processing.

The work program of the meeting will consist of the following substantive themes:

- Architecture
- Streamlining statistical production
- Innovation
- Collaboration

Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations and of interested intergovernmental organizations are welcome to participate in the meeting. Participants representing non-governmental organizations in a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council may also attend. All participants must be accredited by the competent authorities of their country or international organization. All participants attending the meeting are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa.

Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible to the Embassy of the United States of America in the country in which the participant resides, with a reference to the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems.

The statistical offices and international organizations are asked to inform the UNECE secretariat whether their organization intends to participate at the meeting and/or submit a contribution on the topics mentioned above.

Please send a short abstract and indicate the topic to which the paper will refer as well as participant(s) name(s) and their contact data.

Participants are requested to fill in the Conference registration form, which will be available in Word format on the website <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2012.05.msis.html>.

It should be sent to the UNECE secretariat by **March 31, 2012** (as indicated on the form) so that it may be processed well in advance of the meeting.

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

Date: **June 11–14, 2012**

Host: Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions

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 survey
- Measuring nonresponse bias
- Variance estimation
- Advances in disclosure protection
- Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
- New directions in establishment surveys

Information:

(website) www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012,

(email) ices4@amstat.org.

Event: **32nd General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW)**

Date: **August 5-11, 2012**

Host: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Location: Royal Sonesta Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts

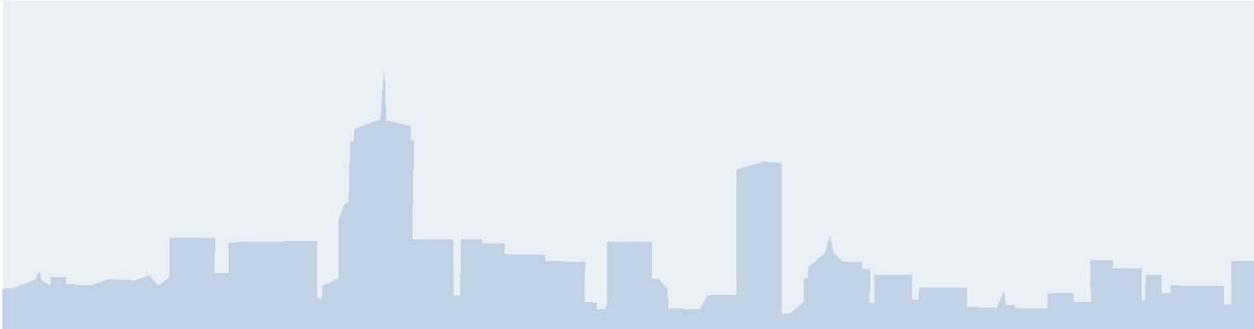
Description: See next page

Registration: Is now open

Information:

(website) www.iariw2012.com,

(email) IARIW2012@bea.gov



SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for the 32nd General Conference of the IARIW

**WHEN
WHERE**

AUG. 5-11, 2012

Royal Sonesta Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts

- Improved measures of economic welfare •
- Lessons learned from the financial crisis •

The conference provides a forum for statistical officials and experts from around the world to share information and ideas on how to develop new economic indicators that will help address some of the most important challenges confronting the global economy.

For more conference information and access to the program please visit www.IARIW2012.com



Hosted by



Event: International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating 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:

H2R|2012

Survey Methods for Hard-to-Reach Populations

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.

<p>Just Announced! Short Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Media Research Methods Respondent-Driven Sampling Designing and Developing Instruments Across Cultures and Languages 	<p>Identifying, Defining, and Measuring the Hard-to-Reach (H2R)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining H2R populations Measuring undercounts for H2R groups Improving measurement with administrative records Sampling H2R populations
<p>Techniques and Methodologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>H2R Subpopulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Linguistic and cultural minorities

Additional information is available on conference website or by email.

Website: www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012
Email: H2R2012@amstat.org.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Course Offering at the Math/Statistic Graduate Program at Georgetown University

The Georgetown University graduate program in mathematics and statistics announces its course offerings for spring and summer, 2012, and its deadline for applications to the program for fall semester, 2012.

This vibrant program, now in its 6th year, culminates in an MS degree in mathematics and statistics. It is attuned to the math/stat workforce in the DC area and emphasizes practical applications, modeling and computation. There is a heavy focus on data analytics. The prerequisites for the program are the equivalent of a minor in mathematics. There is an active internship program, and graduates of the program do very well in the jobs market.

The course offerings are as follows.

SPRING 2012

- 410 Applied Combinatorics
- 425 Optimization Theory
- 502 Deterministic Mathematical Models
- 503 Mathematical Statistics
- 504 Numerical Methods
- 656 Data Mining

SUMMER 2012

- 614 Modeling and Analysis of Stochastic Systems

Application Deadline: April 1, 2012 for Fall 2012

For more information contact the program director, Prof J K Shaw, jks49@georgetown.edu, 202-687-5260, or peruse the website (<http://math.georgetown.edu/programs/graduate/>).

Short Courses Sponsored by JPSM

Course and registration information for all JPSM-sponsored short courses listed below are available at www.jpsm.org/shortcourses.

Writing Questions for Surveys

April 2-3, 2012 at Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington DC

Registration and Payment Due by **March 19, 2012**

Total Survey Error

April 16-17, 2012 at L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington DC

Registration and Payment Due by **April 2, 2012**

COGNITIVE INTERVIEWING: A HANDS-ON APPROACH

June 28-29, 2012 at Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington DC

Registration and Payment Due by **June 14, 2012**

WORKSHOPS Sponsored by American University:

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>

STUDENT COLUMN

Being able to effectively give presentations to your peers is an important skill for both methodologists and subject matter experts. Like any other skill, the two main ways to master it are through practice and observation, whether at a professional conference, a meeting, in front of a class, or a less formal gathering.

The benefit of presenting is more obvious – practice makes perfect (well, maybe not perfect, but certainly better). But I think I may have gotten more out of watching others present, picking up ideas from good presenters on how to present well, and learning from poor presentations what I should try to avoid doing.

In the course of our schooling, there will be a few naturally arising opportunities to present and to observe others presenting, but I would encourage students to take advantage of additional opportunities to do so.

One upcoming such event is the 6th Annual Probability and Statistics Day at UMBC, which is a bit of a misnomer because it's actually two days: Friday and Saturday, April 20th and 21st. Registration is required, but is free for graduate students, and presentations are welcome, with a deadline of April 6th to submit. A website for the event is scheduled to go up in later February – after press deadline for the newsletter, but probably before you are reading this – and you may also contact the conference chair, Dr. Bimal Sinha (sinha@umbc.edu) for more information.

There are other opportunities as well. For example, my school (UMD College Park) has an all-disciplines graduate student research day on April 11th (abstract submission closed February 24th, but if you missed the deadline there's always next year).

Ari Houser
Student Representative
ahouser@umd.edu

SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

2012 Julius Shiskin Award Nominations

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 2011 award recipient was **Thomas L. Meisenbourg Jr.**, the Deputy Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, received the 2011 Shiskin Award for his contributions to developing and advancing economic statistics programs that meet the needs of a rapidly changing economy.

The award is in memory of Julius Shiskin, who had a varied and remarkable public service career. At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner for 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 2012 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 \$1000 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 call 202-691-6147.

Completed nominations must be received by **March 15, 2012**.

Gertrude M. Cox Award Nominations

Please help celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Gertrude M. Cox Award by nominating eligible colleagues for the 10th winner of this award:

- In memory of Dr. Cox (1900-1978), one of the founders of modern statistics, President of the American Statistical Association (1956)
- In recognition of early- to mid-career statisticians who have made significant contributions to areas of statistics in which Dr. Cox worked
- Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society and RTI International

The Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee is seeking nominees for the 2012 Gertrude M Cox Award. The award was established in 2003 through a joint agreement between the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International. The award annually recognizes a statistician in early to mid-career (less than 15 years after his/her terminal degree) who has made significant contributions to one or more of the areas of applied statistics in which Gertrude Cox worked: survey methodology, experimental design, biostatistics, and statistical computing.

The award is in memory of Gertrude M. Cox (1900-1978). In 1945, Dr. Cox became director of the Institute of Statistics of the Consolidated University of North Carolina. In the 1950's, as Head of the Department of Experimental Statistics at North Carolina State College, she played a key role in establishing Mathematical Statistics and Biostatistics Departments at the University of North Carolina. Upon her retirement from North Carolina State University in 1960, Dr. Cox became the first head of Statistical Research Division at the newly founded RTI. She was a founding member of the International Biometric Society (IBS) and in 1949 became the first woman elected into the International Statistical Institute. She served as president of both [The American Statistical Association](#) (1956) and the IBS (1968-69). In 1975 she was elected to the [National Academy of Sciences](#).

The award is presented at the WSS Annual Dinner, usually held in June, with the recipient delivering the keynote address on a topic of general interest to the WSS membership.

This award is made possible by funding from RTI International, and the recipient is chosen by a six-person committee - three each from WSS and RTI. This year's committee consists of Keith Rust, Jonaki Bose, and Michael Brick from WSS; Marcus Berzofsky, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (Chair) from RTI. The award consists of a \$1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS Annual Dinner, and a commemorative WSS plaque. Past recipients have been Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, and Nilanjan Chatterjee.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki (kkrotki@rti.org) by **March 16, 2012**.

Please submit a supporting statement and cv (or a link) for the candidate being nominated.

Herriot Award Nominations

Nominations are sought for the 2012 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

- 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 2012 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 \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2012. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past recipients of the Roger Herriot Award:

- 1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
- 1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)
- 1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- 1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)
- 2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)
- 2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCE, NSF)
- 2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)
- 2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
- 2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)
- 2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)
- 2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
- 2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Nominations for the 2012 award are now being accepted.

Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that includes 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 demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
- A current vita for the nominee with current contact information.

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

For more information, contact Jill A. Dever, Chair of the 2012 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202.974.7846 or jdever@rti.org.

Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2012. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD NOMINATIONS

By Carol House, 2011 Chair, Griffith Award Selection Committee

It's time to start thinking about nominating an outstanding supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of a governmental statistical staff who encourages mentoring of junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical system for the 2012 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. **Nominations must be submitted no later than April 2, 2012.**



Jeanne Griffith

This year marked the 10th year that the award has been presented and the third time the ASA's Government Statistics Section oversaw the award selection process. **Jenise L. Swall**, Statistician, U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, Atmospheric Modeling and Analysis Division, National Exposure Research Laboratory located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, received her award at a ceremony held on June 8, 2011, in Washington, D.C.

If you're not familiar with the award or would like more information about the current honoree and the history of the award, see the excellent article (including some pictures from the ceremony) in the August 2010 issue of *Amstat News* or go to

<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2010/08/01/governmentstataug10/>.

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

Sponsors of the Award: The Government Statistics Section (GSS) of the American Statistical Association manages the award. GSS would like to thank our co-sponsors:

- National Opinion Research Center (NORC),
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS),
- American Institutes for Research (AIR),
- American Educational Research Association (AERA), and
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP).

Please contact Stephanie Shipp (sshipp@ida.org), if you would like to contribute to the award.

Nominations for 2011 are now being accepted. The last date for submission of nominations is **April 2, 2012**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 30, 2012**. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium (to be split if there is more than one awardee), a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in **June 2012**.

The nomination packages are reviewed by a committee comprised of six members who each serve a six-year term. Andy Orlin, Jeanne Griffith's husband, serves as emeritus member, thus providing continuity and historical perspective.

The recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award previous to this year's awardee are Rich Allen (National Agriculture Statistical Service), 2003; Beth Kils (Internal Revenue Service), 2004; Renee Miller (Energy Information Administration), 2005; Martin O'Connell (U.S. Census Bureau), 2006; Stephanie Shipp (National Institute of Standards and Technology – at the time of the award), 2007; Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008; Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service), Lillian S. Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 2009; Deborah H. Griffin (U.S. Bureau of the Census), 2010; and Jenise L. Swall (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 2011.

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

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

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee:

- The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers.
- **Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.**
- The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice...counsels with long-term goals in mind...thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts...encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach...a teacher.
- Photo copies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

For more information about the nominating process for the 2012 award, please go to:
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.doc> or
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.pdf>.

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org (703) 684-1221, and **Clyde Tucker** at nctucker@cox.net 703-989-1334.

The nomination package must be mailed or emailed **no later than April 2, 2012**, to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee
c/o The American Statistical Association
732 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
rick@amstat.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant / Associate Professor of Biostatistics The George Washington University/School of Public Health and Health Services

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the GWU School of Public Health and Health Services is recruiting for 1-2 dynamic, full-time faculty members in biostatistics at the rank of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor. The successful applicant(s) will be involved with research, teaching graduate courses including doctoral level courses and mentoring activities in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Rank, salary and employment in either a tenure or non-tenure track position will be commensurate with experience.

The Department has expertise in HIV/AIDS, cancer, behavioral, reproductive health and health disparities epidemiology; geographical health information systems and spatial analysis, biostatistical methods and public health laboratory science.

Basic Qualifications:

Qualified applicants for the Assistant Professor position must have either a doctoral or ABD degree in biostatistics, in statistics, or in epidemiology with substantial quantitative academic training, evidence of teaching and mentoring experience in graduate-level programs in biostatistics or epidemiology, and a history of involvement in applied or methodologic research. ABD applicants will be considered for a conditional appointment at the rank of instructor and must have their doctoral degrees conferred by August 15, 2012.

Applicants for the Associate Professor position are expected to have a record of peer-reviewed publications and a history of involvement in educational activities and externally sponsored research projects to support an appointment at this rank.

For both positions, strong written communication skills are required.

Preferred Qualifications:

For both positions, strong verbal communication skills are preferred.

Responsibilities: will include maintaining an active research program in biostatistics or epidemiology, teaching and developing graduate-level courses in biostatistical and epidemiologic methods; and advising masters and doctoral-level students. Opportunities for involvement in the development of consultation activities in biostatistics and epidemiology are available. Review of applications will begin on March 25, 2012 and will continue until the positions are filled. Applications from women and people of color are strongly encouraged.

Application Procedure: To be considered, interested applicants should submit the following documents electronically: 1) a curriculum vitae; 2) a statement of research interests and accomplishments and plans; and 3) a statement of teaching and mentoring experience, to:

Search Committee, Epidemiology and Biostatistics
c/o Stephanie Panichello, Department Manager
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
School of Public Health and Health Services
The George Washington University
ebjobs@gwu.edu (please submit all materials electronically to this e-mail address)
Please include Position Tracking Number **EPI 11-05** in email subject line.
Only complete applications will be considered.

Additional information about the SPHHS can be found at <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/>.

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

Statistician

AOC Solutions

Skilled statistician with experience in providing statistical consulting support in the federal financial management industry. Individual possesses strong statistical background and proficiency in the use of statistical software (Microsoft Excel, Stata, etc.), as well as strong verbal and written communication, interpersonal, and client service skills. Individual must be skilled in developing professional written reports to fully document and explain statistical processes, explanations, work plans, and findings. Individual must have a flexible schedule and be responsive to varying timelines to meet client needs.

Individual has demonstrated experience in performing statistical analyses in support of complex projects related to:

- Federal Financial Management
- Federal Financial Statement Audit Readiness and Testwork
- Federal Financial Data Analysis

This resource should provide functional, technical, and/or administrative statistical support as directed in the above subject areas to assist with meeting client needs and objectives.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Perform varying statistical analyses in response to and in support of client needs.
- Develop and document work plans and statistical and analytical methodologies for proposal to client based on identified needs and requirements.
- Analyze numerical data to assist with resolving complex financial management and accounting problems and making predictions on future outcomes.
- Generate sample populations for various client test and review needs.
- Analyze, interpret, and summarize sample findings.
- Accurately display information into charts, tables, and written form for presentation and delivery purposes.
- Assist with development and delivery of presentations, reports, and work papers to client personnel, including senior executive level management, regarding statistical analyses.
- Assist with client communication as directed.
- Support status reporting development and delivery to client personnel as directed.

Required Education and Experience

Minimum Bachelor's degree in Statistics from an accredited university. Minimum ten (10) years of experience in federal financial sector required.

EOE M/F/D/V

To Apply go to <http://www.aocsolutions.com/careers.htm>, or send your resume to droberts@aocsolutions.com



Senior Survey Sampling Statistician

Abt SRBI Inc, the survey research subsidiary of Abt Associates, is a leading survey research organization. We provide survey data collection, statistical consulting and analysis to a broad range of government agencies, university researchers, foundations, the media and major corporations. Much of our work is focused on public policy and policy evaluation in the areas of: health policy, epidemiology, education, food safety, transportation/urban planning, environmental issues, financial institutions, and public opinion.

The position of Senior Survey Sampling Statistician will work with our Advanced Methods Group. This is a new position based upon our growth and the need to develop increasingly complex sample designs to meet client needs. The position can be located in any of the current Abt SRBI offices (New York, NY, Cambridge, MA, Chicago, IL, Silver Spring, MD, Fort Myers, FL, Durham, NC, and Scottsdale, AZ). We will also consider candidates to work remotely.

Responsibilities will include:

- Work with project directors to develop sample designs, including stages of selection, clustering, stratification and allocation to strata
- Determine appropriate sampling frame(s) (i.e. CDSF, landline RDD, cell RDD, etc) and specifications for sample construction
- Determine sample size based on project needs, anticipated design effect, and power requirements
- Develop and document weighting protocols for complex samples, including adjustments for non-coverage and non-response
- Variance estimation using replicate weights
- Prepare methodological reports on sampling and weighting procedures

Required Skills and Knowledge:

- Ph.D. or Master's degree in statistics (preferably social science survey statistics) and 3 yrs of relevant experience or an equivalent combination of education and work history
- Working knowledge of SAS, Stata, or other statistical application designed for complex surveys

Abt SRBI offers an excellent, collegial work environment which encourages professional growth and advancement opportunities. Interested candidates should apply via our website:

<http://tbe.taleo.net/NA11/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=SRBI&cws=1&rid=203>.

Abt SRBI is an equal opportunity employer who actively seeks diversity in the workplace. Veterans are encouraged to apply.

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **April, 2012** issue of 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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