



## WSS NEWS

---

# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** WSS ELECTIONS COMING SOON!
- 3** WSS PRESIDENT'S LECTURE DRAWS LARGE CROWD
- 5** SEMINARS
- 7** CONFERENCES
- 14** CALL FOR PAPERS
- 16** SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS
- 17** SHORT COURSES
- 18** WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT
- 19** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
- 21** WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS
- 26** FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

## **WSS ELECTIONS COMING SOON!**

### **Annual Election of Board Members for WSS**

Every spring since the Washington Statistical Society was formally organized in 1926, the members of the Society are asked to vote for members who will represent them on the Board of Directors. This year's election will be held on-line, in the second half of May. Eligible voters will receive an email with instructions on how to get information about the candidates and how to vote. We urge you to exercise your right to vote and chose the candidates that you believe will best serve the Society. I would like to thank each of the candidates for running for office despite the many other responsibilities they have.

You will notice a new position on this year's ballot – Communications Officer. The membership approved the creation of this position in a constitutional ballot in 2012. On that ballot the position was described as follows: There are several volunteer positions within the WSS that revolve around electronic communication, website updates, membership list maintenance, and e-mail lists. Many of the responsibilities of these positions overlap with one or more other positions. The Board of Directors feels the need to add a board level position, with voting rights, to coordinate these roles and ensure continuity in maintaining membership rolls for the Society, communicating events of interest in a timely fashion, and upkeep of the WSS website. The new position, called Communications Officer, would coordinate the duties of membership chair, website maintenance, newsletter, and e-mail notifications to ensure that members have access to relevant and timely information about events of importance in the DC area.

I would also urge each of you to consider whether you could serve the statistical community in the Washington area by volunteering for some activity with the WSS. If you are willing to serve in any capacity, please email the incoming President Diane Herz at [DHerz@Mathematica-Mpr.com](mailto:DHerz@Mathematica-Mpr.com) and let her know. There are always a host of activities that need volunteers.

All members eligible to vote, that is, those who have paid their WSS dues as of March 31, 2014, will receive an email with instructions on voting electronically sometime in May. Voting will be open for two to three weeks. Please vote.

Past-President and Chair of the Nominations Committee  
~Keith Rust

## **WSS PRESIDENT'S LECTURE DRAWS BIG CROWD**

On Wednesday, March 26 the Washington Statistical Society hosted its annual President's lecture at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Dr. Michael Brick of Westat was the featured speaker with WSS President, Nancy Bates, serving as chair and moderator. The lecture drew quite a crowd with over 100 people requesting to attend in person and close to forty participating remotely via WebEX.

Mike reported on findings from a recent taskforce report commissioned by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). The report was on the topic of using nonprobability samples in survey and market research. An abbreviated version of the report was recently published in the new *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*.

Mike reported on the conclusions and recommendations of the report including:

- Unlike probability sampling, there is no single framework that adequately encompasses all of non-probability sampling.
- Researchers and other data users may find it useful to think of the different non-probability sample approaches as falling on a continuum of expected accuracy of the estimates.
- Transparency is essential when reporting estimates from nonprobability samples.
- Making inferences for any probability or non-probability survey requires some reliance on modeling assumptions.
- Non-probability samples may be appropriate for making statistical inferences, but the validity of the inferences rests on the appropriateness of the assumptions underlying the model and how deviations from those assumptions affect the specific estimates.
- If non-probability samples are to gain wider acceptance among survey researchers there must be a more coherent framework and accompanying set of measures for evaluating their quality.
- Although non-probability samples often have performed well in electoral polling, the evidence of their accuracy is less clear in other domains and in more complex surveys that measure many different phenomena.

- Fit for purpose is an important concept for judging survey quality, but its application to survey design requires further elaboration.
- Sampling methods used with opt-in panels have evolved significantly over time and, as a result, research aimed at evaluating the validity of survey estimates from these sample sources should focus on sampling methods.

The entire taskforce report is available at [www.aapor.org](http://www.aapor.org) and slides from the lecture are on the WSS website at: <http://www.washstat.org/sem2014.html#140326>. The WSS thanks Dan Gillman, John Dixon, Polly Phipps and MoonJung Cho of BLS for helping arrange and remotely broadcast the seminar. Thanks also to Mike for delivering such a well-received lecture! If you have topics or suggested speakers for future WSS seminars, please contact Dan Liao and Mike Fleming, WSS Methodology and Program Chairs ([dliao@rti.org](mailto:dliao@rti.org), [cflaming0@cox.net](mailto:cflaming0@cox.net)).



## SEMINARS

**Title:** **US Census Bureau Center for Statistical Research & Methodology Seminar: Bayesian Reconstruction of Past Populations for Developing and Developed Countries**

**Date/Time:** **April 24, 2014**  
**11:00 am – Noon**

**Speaker:** Adrian E. Raftery, University of Washington

**Location:** Seminar Room 5K410 (Red Area), US Census Bureau, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746

**Abstract:** I will describe Bayesian population reconstruction, a new method for estimating past populations by age and sex, with fully probabilistic statements of uncertainty. It simultaneously estimates age-specific population counts, vital rates and net migration from fragmentary data while formally accounting for measurement error. As inputs, it takes initial bias-corrected estimates of age-specific population counts, vital rates and net migration. The output is a joint posterior probability distribution which yields fully probabilistic interval estimates of past vital rates and population numbers by age and sex. It is designed for the kind of data commonly collected in demographic surveys and censuses and can be applied to countries with widely varying levels of data quality. This is joint work with Mark Wheldon, Patrick Gerland, and Samuel Clark. [Census Collaborations: POP (Tori Velkoff, Jason Devine); CSRSM (Joseph Schafer, Eric Slud)]

**If you wish to attend the seminar and are not a Census Bureau employee, please contact:**

**Kelly Taylor**

**Email:** [kelly.l.taylor@census.gov](mailto:kelly.l.taylor@census.gov)

**Phone:** 301-763-4896

<http://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/popup.php?op=view&id=74895617&crd=cens1sample&PHPSESSID=3fda4e20ab03cd0d2fab7870a329f4bd>



## **JPSM Distinguished Lecture Series**



### **Sarah Nusser**

Professor, Department of Statistics and Vice President of Research,  
Iowa State University

### **Accounting for Measurement Error in Physical Activity Data**

Distributions of usual physical activity and dietary intake are useful in monitoring the health of population groups. The term “usual” is generally interpreted as a long-run average for an individual (e.g., a person’s average daily energy expenditure over a year). Data used to estimate distributions of usual behavior often come from short-term recalls that are subject to measurement error. Although methods to collect and adjust for measurement error have been carefully developed for dietary intake recalls, until recently, methodologies appropriate for physical activity recall data have received limited attention. To address this gap, we explored the measurement error characteristics of physical activity data and developed statistical approaches for estimating usual activity distributions. We began by conducting the Iowa Physical Activity Measurement Survey (PAMS) to obtain data that could be used for statistical modeling. The survey collected concurrent recall and benchmark measures of activity on a sample of adult Iowans, with replicate observations on the respondents. The data were used to investigate models to characterize measurement error in energy expenditure data and estimate distributions of usual daily energy expenditure. In this talk, we will provide an overview of measurement issues in physical activity recall data and the survey methods we used to surmount some of those problems. We will describe our models for energy expenditure and review estimates of parameters from these models that offer insight into usual daily energy expenditure and measurement error as a function of individual characteristics. As time permits, we will offer a brief overview of interesting research by other groups to improve activity recall measurement and benchmark data for physical activity behaviors.

**Friday, April 25 at 3:00-4:30 PM**

**2205 LeFrak Hall (next to JPSM Office)  
University of Maryland, College Park 20740**

*Discussants:* **Peter Miller**, U.S. Census Bureau and **Jill Montaquila**, Westat

***Please join us for a reception afterwards***

## CONFERENCES

- Event:** **FFC/2014: The 20<sup>th</sup> Federal Forecasters Conference**  
**Theme: The Role of Government Forecasts**
- Sponsoring Agencies:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs, Economic Research Service, Internal Revenue Service, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor
- Date/Time:** **April 24, 2014**  
**8:00 am - 9:00 am (check-in)**  
**9:00am - 4:15 pm (schedule)**
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center  
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20212
- Register Deadline:** **April 10, 2014** at <http://ffc2014.eventbrite.com>
- \*Abstract Due:** **March 15, 2014**
- \*Contest Entry Deadline:** **March 15, 2014**  
*No charge for participation*

*\*See page 9 for additional information about the contest and for submitting abstracts.*

**Description:**

Government forecasts are critical to assessing the future needs of the nation. These forecasts are used by those in the public and private sectors for planning and decision-making in a variety of areas: agriculture, energy, the environment, demographics, geologic hazards, healthcare, job trends, social security, veteran's issues, and more. For example, policy makers use forecasts to create laws, direct resources and establish budgets. Individuals use forecasts of salary and employment trends to make career decisions, and nominal price forecasts and interest rate trends to decide whether to buy a home. Government agencies are also consumers, using forecasts of weather and commodity supply and demand to project crop yield and prices. Labor force projections are also based on government-produced projections of the population.

At FFC/20, presenters from a variety of agencies will share their experience in developing and using forecasts. Add your voice to the conversation! Please join our discussion of the unique role played by federal forecasts, and how forecasts are used by the government, private industry, and the public.



*The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*  
**Friday, May 9, 2014** • National Academy of Sciences Main Building  
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC • Lecture Room

2:00 pm **Light Refreshments for Seminar Guests – First Floor East Court**

2:30 **Welcome**

—Lisa Lynch, CNSTAT member and Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University

2:35 **Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office**

—Katherine Wallman, Chief Statistician of the United States

2:45 ***The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality***

Presenter: Angus Deaton, Princeton University

Discussants:

David Johnson, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Samuel Preston, University of Pennsylvania

Angus Deaton will present some of the main themes of his book, *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*. He will talk about how the world has become an immensely better place, as mortality has fallen and incomes have risen, but at the same time a more unequal place, because only some have escaped leaving others behind. He will also talk about inequality—its positive role in helping those left behind to catch up, and its negative role if the first escapees try to stop others from following. He will argue that aid flows from rich to poor countries often widen the very gaps they are nominally trying to close. He will also focus on the data underpinning his arguments, especially some of the unsolved issues in national and global statistics. These include the need to integrate inequality data from surveys with national accounts data, and the under-appreciated difficulties of calculating the price levels that are needed to make international comparisons. There are also great gaps in measures of mortality, especially in Africa; making up data is not a solution.

4:00 **Floor Discussion**

4:30–5:30 **Reception – First Floor East Court**

**This seminar is open to the public. Please help us plan by registering [here](#).**

For assistance, please contact Jacqui Sovde at (202) 334-1616 or [jsovde@nas.edu](mailto:jsovde@nas.edu)

**This seminar is open to the public. Please help us plan by registering [here](#).**

For assistance, please contact Jacqui Sovde at (202) 334-1616 or



## **Know Your Power: Enticing, Elevating and Empowering Careers of Women in Statistics**

### ***Connect...learn...grow!***

You're invited to this new conference highlighting the achievements and career interests of women in statistics. Special sessions focused on career development, work presented by leading researchers, and opportunities to connect with peers will provide unique perspectives on the role of women in today's statistical fields.

**When:** May 15 -17, 2014

**Where:** Embassy Suites, Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle, NC

**Program:** [Click here](#) to review the program and [outstanding speakers and researchers](#).

**Note:** Registration limited to the first 400 registrants.

**Poster Session:** Looking for an opportunity to share your work or research with other conference attendees? [Submit a poster abstract here](#) (after you create your profile or log in).

**Travel Awards:** Approximately 25 junior researchers with accepted poster abstracts will be eligible for travel awards - [click here to apply](#).

### **HOW TO REGISTER:**

**STEP ONE:** [Click here to register for the conference](#)

which includes all sessions, networking events, poster session, coffee breaks, breakfast and dinner receptions, lunches and Awards Gala Dinner.

**STEP TWO:** [Click here to make your hotel reservations](#) at the special conference rate of \$124 single/double is are only available through this link. The group code loads automatically; complimentary in-room Internet included in rate. Rooms are limited and discounted rate only available through April 28 or until sold out.

Early Bird until <b>March 15</b>	Regular \$349	Student	\$199
<b>March 15 to May 1</b>	Regular \$399	Student	\$225
<b>After May 1</b>	Regular \$449	Student	\$250

**Questions?** Visit [Women in Statistics](#), [contact us here by email](#) or call Mollie Rasor, conference at 919-234-7036.

Thank you to our sponsors:



**Conference Organizers:**

**ASA Committee on Women in Statistics; Caucus for Women in Statistics; Appreciation to the following organizations for endorsement of the Women in Statistics conference:**

- Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies
- NC State University
- Association of Women in Mathematics
- National Institute of Statistics Science
- International Biometric Society/Eastern North American Region
- Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute
- Joint Committee on Women in the Mathematical Sciences
- International Indian Statistical Association
- International Statistics Institute Committee on Women in Statistics
- Institute of Mathematical Statistics

**NSF–Census Bureau Research Network (NCRN)  
Spring 2014 Meeting  
May 22–23, 2014**

Census Headquarters, Suitland MD  
[Conference Rooms 1-3]

**Thursday, May 22, 2014**

9:00-9:30 Welcome and Introductions

9:30-12:00 Research Session I: **Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) Metadata within the Federal Statistical System: Implementation Challenges and Provenance Encoding** (*Organizer: William Block, Cornell*)

12:00- 1:00 Lunch (Census cafeteria, on your own)

1:00- 4:00 Breakout sessions (open to all)

- Breakout session 1: SWELL (Summer Work Group for Employer List Linkage)  
[Conference Room 4]
- Breakout session 2: TBD (interested groups should contact [info@ncrn.info](mailto:info@ncrn.info))  
[Conference Room 1]

**Friday, May 23, 2014**

9:00-12:00 Research Session II: **Designing a questionnaire for the 21st century: Adaptive design and other survey topics** (*Organizer: Alan Karr, NISS*)

[Conference Rooms 1-3]

You can find the most up-to-date meeting agenda and a registration form at <http://www.ncrn.info/event/ncrn-meeting-spring-2014>

The Census Bureau is located adjacent to the Suitland Metro stop and there is visitor parking available. There is no charge for attendance.

- Event:** **Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys, and Big Data**
- Location:** Marriott Inn & Conference Center  
Hyattsville, Maryland at the University of Maryland College Park Campus
- Date/Time:** **May 29-31, 2014**
- Description:** This conference is held in honor of Professor Malay Ghosh and his profound contribution to diverse areas of statistics. Distinguished plenary speakers and young researchers will showcase Professor Ghosh's many cutting-edge research projects in the field.
- Information about submitting materials for presentation is provided on page 11.
- Website:** <http://www.jointprogram.umd.edu/ghosh/>

# **CALL FOR PAPERS**

## **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION, POSTERS AND REGISTRATION**

### **ISBA-George Box Research Workshop on Frontiers of Statistics The George Washington University, Washington DC May 20th-22nd, 2014**

This is the second call for participation for the ISBA-Box Research Workshop. The Organizing Committee invites participants to register for the meeting as soon as possible, and solicits abstracts for poster presentations. As is the norm at Bayesian meetings, the poster session will be a major highlight and a key part of the Workshop. The poster session will be combined with the formal Workshop reception with all participants expected. We particularly encourage new researchers and students to present a poster, to take the opportunity to discuss their work and interact with other participants.

Please submit poster abstracts by March 1st, 2014, to [soyer@gwu.edu](mailto:soyer@gwu.edu). Poster presenters will receive email acknowledgement and should register by March 15th, 2014.

Registration is now open for the Workshop. For our planning, we encourage registration as soon as possible. At the Workshop web site you will find a link to Registration through the ISBA system:

<http://business.gwu.edu/decisionssciences/i2sds/conferences.cfm>

We also note that the all-inclusive registration fees are substantially subsidized (doubly so for student participants).

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the One Washington Circle Hotel for the nights of May 20-22, 2014 at the rate of \$189.00. This rate is available until April 4, 2014. When registering, please contact the hotel directly to reserve your room, and use hotel GROUP ID CODE #1106210.

One Washington Circle Hotel  
1 Washington Circle, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
<http://www.thecirclehotel.com/>  
Tel: 202.872.1680 or 800.424.9671

**The Info-Metrics Institute**  
[www.american.edu/info-metrics](http://www.american.edu/info-metrics)

In conjunction with the celebration of its 5 year anniversary, the **Info-Metrics Institute** announces:

**CALL FOR PAPERS, Fall 2014 Conference: Recent Innovations in Info-Metrics**

**Time & Location: October 31 & November 1, 2014** (American University, Washington, DC)

**Objectives & Topics:** The objective of our fifth year anniversary conference is to highlight the importance of info-metrics, information-theoretic inference and their mathematical and philosophical foundations. A special emphasis will be on the interconnection of inferential and philosophical problems and solutions across disciplines. The conference will be a combination of invited talks, invited sessions and submitted papers. All topics pertaining to info-metrics are invited for submission. This includes, but is not limited to: (1) Information-Theoretic methods of inference, (2) Info-Metrics across the sciences and engineering, (3) Philosophy and the value of information and info-metrics, (4) Information processing and nonparametric inference, (5) Networks and information, (6) Complexity and information, (7) Large or sparse data and information, (8) Recent advancements in information theory and inference, (9) System information.

**Program Committee:** Aman Ullah (UC Riverside; Econometric Theory, Statistics, Entropy Measures) – Chair; Luciano Floridi (Oxford; Philosophy and Information); Jeff Racine (McMaster; Econometrics, Nonparametric Methods, Entropy Measures; Computational Methods); Richard Smith (Cambridge; Econometrics and Info-Theoretic Methods); David Wolpert (Santa Fe Inst.; Complexity, Evolutionary Models, Info Theory, Foundations of Physics and Inference, Game Theory)

**Submission and Publication:** Papers should be submitted to [info-metrics@american.edu](mailto:info-metrics@american.edu) with subject line "Submission Fall 2014." Submission should include a very detailed abstract-summary or preferably a draft paper. Papers already submitted for publication will not be accepted.

**Submission Deadline: Friday, May 30, 2014.** A special volume of this conference will be published. For further details on submissions, conference special volume publication and registration see:

<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/conference-2014-fall.cfm>

## **SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS**

### **The Info-Metrics Annual Prize in Memory of Halbert L. White, Jr.**

The Info-Metrics Institute is pleased to announce the creation of the Halbert L. White, Jr. prize in memory of one of the Institute's founding Board members who passed away on March 31, 2012. Intended to reward outstanding academic research by an early-career scholar in the field of info-metrics, the prize carries an award of \$2000 to be conferred either to an individual or shared among joint recipients. The award ceremony will occur at the first Info-Metrics meeting (conference or workshop) following the announcement of the award recipient.

The annual Info-Metrics prize will be given for the best recent published work, in any academic discipline, that is deemed likely to bring important advances to multiple academic disciplines in the area of info-metrics (the science and practice of inference and quantitative information processing).

The first prize will be given in 2014. All topics within the field of info-metrics are eligible, regardless of discipline.

The inaugural Award Committee consists of Essie Maasoumi (Emory; Social Sciences)-Chair; Ariel Caticha (SUNY Albany; Natural Sciences); Luciano Floridi (Oxford; Philosophy); Yuichi Kitamura (Yale; Social Sciences); Raphael D. Levine (Hebrew U. and UCLA; Natural Sciences); Aman Ullah (UC Riverside; Social Sciences).

For more information on the nomination procedure see:  
<http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/prize.cfm>



## **SHORT COURSES**

### **Introduction to Survey Management**

**JUNE 10-11, 2014**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212**

Presented by Steven G. Heeringa and Nancy Gebler

**Payment and Registration Due by May 27, 2014**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=061014](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061014)

### **Introduction to Record Linkage**

**JUNE 19-20, 2014**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212**

Presented by Manfred Antoni, Stefen Bender and Joe Sakshaug

**Payment and Registration Due by June 5, 2014**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=061914](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061914)

## WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Washington Statistical Society

#### Member Spotlight

*Introducing your fellow members and showcasing the diversity of the WSS membership*



#### Meet WSS Member Paul Beatty...

**1. Where do you work and what do you do?**

I'm currently Chief of the Ambulatory and Hospital Care Statistics Branch at the National Center for Health Statistics. My branch designs and implements national surveys about the health care that people receive in physician offices and hospitals. We also produce public-use data files, web tables, Data Briefs and other publications for a variety of audiences. Generally we have about five or six national surveys going at a time, last year amounting to about \$27 million worth of work, and a staff of about 28.

**2. What attracted you to your current position?**

I'm a methodologist by training, and did questionnaire evaluation and methods research for many years. I liked the work but started to think I was repeating myself—plus, I realized that I hadn't actually done a survey in a long time. I started to worry that my perspective, and the advice I gave, wasn't grounded enough in the reality of how surveys are actually done. So I made a major change, from being primarily a researcher on household surveys, to primarily a manager of establishment surveys. It was a very difficult adjustment—but it proved to be a fantastic growth opportunity. I went far outside my comfort zone, but it would be hard to overstate how much I've learned.

**3. Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to..."**

... stay connected with people who share my professional interests—to learn from them, to build new personal and professional connections, and to have fun as well.

**4. What was your first job?**

I typed library catalog cards—a skill that is now completely obsolete!

**5. What is the last book you read?**

A. Scott Berg's biography of Woodrow Wilson.

**6. How do you like to spend your free time away from work?**

Reading, running, biking, movies, listening to music, genealogy, traveling and getaways with the family... as time allows!

**7. Why did you join the statistics profession?**

In college I was more of a literary type – but not knowing what I ultimately wanted to do, I kept taking math classes to keep my options open. Statistics courses became a pragmatic extension of that. Later I had a part time job at the Survey Research Center at Michigan, and it occurred to me that survey research was a great fit given my love of both language and quantitative analysis. It's continued to be a gratifying career on both counts, and has given me the opportunity to create information where it didn't previously exist, and to work on some important problems.

**8. What skills are most important for the next generation of statistics professionals?**

An explosion in both volume and sources of data means that cutting-edge analytic skills for "big data" will be in great demand. But this is also going to require creativity and adaptability. Data and technology are likely to continue changing rapidly, and many of the challenges to be addressed aren't even known yet—so flexibility, openness to learning new skills, and ability to think of fresh solutions will be vital. There are going to be great opportunities for innovative thinkers.

**9. Describe yourself in 3 words.**

Curious. Pragmatic. Loyal.

**10. Have you had any great mentors? If so, what made them great?**

I've been helped by so many people along the way, they'd be impossible to count. Especially early on, those who let me know that they had faith in my talent or potential—before I had any real sense of it—made a huge difference. Throughout my career, I've been extraordinarily fortunate in having mentors who were very willing to share their knowledge and experience.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

### **ASA Booth at the USA Science and Engineering Festival**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the staffing of the American Statistical Association booth at the 3<sup>rd</sup> USA Science and Engineering Festival on Friday, April 25 (from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 (from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day) at the Washington Convention Center. The basic duties are to help with several hands-on activities that emphasize important statistical ideas in an informal setting and to answer questions from the public. An ASA staff member will also be at the booth most of the time. However, having 2 to 3 additional volunteers there will help immensely since the organizers estimate that around 10,000 people will visit each booth over the three days. Plus, it's fun!!!!

If you can volunteer for two or more hours on any of these days, please contact Carol Joyce Blumberg by **April 16** at [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com). Please specify which hours you can volunteer.

The festival itself will have more than 3,000 exhibits, stage shows, a book fair with author presentations, a career pavilion and much more. Friday is a sneak peek day (attendance by invitation only). Saturday and Sunday are open to the public and the entire festival is free of charge. Even if you cannot volunteer, bring your family and friends and give your future and current scientists the experience of a lifetime. For more information, the festival website is at <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>.

## **Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program**

The WSS Board of Directors has established a program to highlight members who have made or are making notable contributions to the work of their organization or their professional field of expertise. We know that WSS members are doing interesting work in the fields of statistics, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

This is our first request for nominations, to be featured in an upcoming issue of WSS News. We are interested in featuring members at all levels of the employment spectrum including recent graduates, mid-career employees, and those seasoned veterans.

Please feel free to nominate more than one person or a team working together. You may also nominate yourself as well. The nominees must be members of the WSS and not currently affiliated with the Board.

Please provide us with the following information about your nominee or nominees.

1. Your name, email address, and telephone number
2. Name or names of nominee(s)
3. Organizational affiliation
4. Job title
5. Their contact information including email address and telephone number
6. A brief narrative describing the reasons for your nomination
7. A photo of the nominee, although not required, would be greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to, John Finamore ([jfinamore@nsf.gov](mailto:jfinamore@nsf.gov)), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## Washington Statistical Society Board of Directors, Programs, and Committees

### ELECTED WSS BOARD MEMBERS

**President**

Nancy Bates (301) 763-5248 nancy.a.bates@census.gov

**Past President**

Keith Rust (301) 251-8278 keithrust@westat.com

**President-Elect**

Diane Herz (202) 250-3529 dherz@mathematica-mpr.com

**Secretary**

Andrew Keller (301) 763-9308 Andrew.d.keller@census.gov

**Treasurer**

Jane Li (240) 314-2566 janeli@westat.com

**Representatives-at-Large**

John Finamore (703) 292-2258 jfinamor@nsf.gov

Donsig Jang (202) 484-4246 Djang@Mathematica-Mpr.com

Jaki McCarthy (703) 877-8000 Jaki.mccarthy@nass.usda.gov

Steven Paben (202) 691-7007 Paben.steven@bls.gov

**Council of Chapters Representative**

Eileen O'Brien (202) 586-1122 Eileen.O'Brien@eia.gov

**Methodology Section Chair**

Dan Liao (301) 816-4605 dliao@rti.org

**Communications Officer**

Phil Kalina (703) 725-6600 phil@philkalina.com

**WSS BOARD MEMBERS****Employment Column Coordinator**

Anne Peterson (703) 504-9483 [apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com](mailto:apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com)

**Historian**

Dwight Brock (301) 517-4026 [dwightbrock@westat.com](mailto:dwightbrock@westat.com)

**Quantitative Literacy**

Dhuly Chowdury (301) 770-8234 [dchowdhury@rti.org](mailto:dchowdhury@rti.org)

**Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition**

Barnali Das (301) 279-4593 [barnalidas@westat.com](mailto:barnalidas@westat.com)

**Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator**

John Tillinghast (301) 763-3738

Currently vacant

**Quantitative Workshop Coordinator**

Mark Otto (301) 497-5872 [mark\\_otto@fws.gov](mailto:mark_otto@fws.gov)

**Short Courses**

Brian Meekins (202) 691-7594 [meekins.brian@bls.gov](mailto:meekins.brian@bls.gov)

**WSS Newsletter Editor**

Colleen Choi [wss.editor@gmail.com](mailto:wss.editor@gmail.com)

**Workshop Coordinator**

Mark Otto (301) 497-5872 [mark\\_otto@fws.gov](mailto:mark_otto@fws.gov)

**Video Conferencing**

Dan Gillman (202) 691-7523 [gillman.daniel@bls.gov](mailto:gillman.daniel@bls.gov)

**Video Librarian**

Phil Kalina (703) 725-6600 [phil@philkalina.com](mailto:phil@philkalina.com)

**Web Master**

Dan Jacobs (seeking replacement) (301) 405-6383 [jacobs@mdsg.umd.edu](mailto:jacobs@mdsg.umd.edu)

**WSS PROGRAM CHAIRS****Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Mike Fleming	(703) 631-5869	cfleming0@cox.net
Mel Kollander	(703) 642-8079	mellk@erols.com
Barry Nussbaum	(202) 566-1493	nussbaum.barry@epa.gov
Adam Rettig		
Eduardo Rodela	(301) 564-7586	rodela.eduardo@epa.gov

**Data Collection Methods**

Chris Blakely	(301) 763-1722	clisztian@gmail.com
Jonathon Mendelson	(571) 858-3753	jmendelson@forsmarshgroup.com

**Defense and National Security**

Wendy Martinez	(540) 284-1032	martinezw@verizon.net
----------------	----------------	-----------------------

**Economic**

Linette Lanclos	(202) 720-2641	Linette399@yahoo.com
-----------------	----------------	----------------------

**Human Rights**

Michael P. Cohen	(202) 232-4651	mpcohen@juno.com
------------------	----------------	------------------

**Methodology Program Chair**

Mike Fleming	(703) 631-5869	cfleming0@cox.net
--------------	----------------	-------------------

**Public Health and Biostatistics**

Carolyn Carroll	(202) 320-8709	carolyn@stattech.com
Grant Izmirlian	(301) 496-7519	izmirlian@nih.gov

**Public Policy**

Michael L. Cohen	(202) 334-3765	mcohen@nas.edu
Jennifer Park	(202) 395-9046	Jennifer_E_Park@omb.eop.gov

**Quality Assurance**

VACANT

**Social and Demographic Statistics**

Promod Chandhok	(202) 366-2158	promod.chandhok@dot.gov
Judy Droitcour	(202) 512-9145	droitcourj@gao.gov

**Statistical Computing**

Charlie Hallahan	(202) 694-5051	hallahan@ers.usda.gov
------------------	----------------	-----------------------

**Student Representative**

Tim Allen		Timothy.allen@udc.edu
-----------	--	-----------------------

**WSS Member Spotlight**

John Finamore		jfinamor@nsf.gov
---------------	--	------------------

**WSS COMMITTEES****Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee**

Brian Sloboda

sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov

**Electronic Mail Committee**

S.V. (Vince) Massimini (703) 983-5893

svm@mitre.org

**Financial Advisor and Audit Committee**

Jonaki Bose (240) 276-1257

Jonaki.Bose@samhsa.hhs.gov

J. Michael Brick (301) 294-2004

MikeBrick@westat.com

John Eltinge (202) 691-7404

Eltinge.John@bls.gov

**Gertrude Cox Award Committee**

Nancy Bates (301) 763-5248

nancy.a.bates@census.gov

Marcus Berzofsky (919) 316-3752

berzofsky@rti.org

Diane Herz (202) 250-3529

dherz@mathematica-mpr.com

Phillip Kott (301) 468-8281

pkott@rti.org

Karol Krotki (202) 728-2485

kkrotki@rti.org

Keith Rust (301) 251-8278

keithrust@westat.com

**Hansen Lecture Committee**

John Czajka (202) 484-4685

jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com

Garry Graubard

graubard@exchange.nih.gov

Mark Harris (703) 877-8000 (ext. 100)

mark\_harris@nass.usda.gov

Don Malec (301) 458-4031

dmalec@cdc.gov

Keith Rust (301) 251-8278

keithrust@westat.com

Eric Slud

eric.v.slud@census.gov

**Herriot Award Committee**

John Dixon (202) 691-7516

dixon.john@bls.gov

Jill Montaquila (301) 517-4046

jillmontaquila@westat.com

Fritz Scheuren (202) 974-7846

scheuren@aol.com

**Membership Committee**

John Czajka (202) 484-4685

jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com

John Dixon (202) 691-7516

dixon\_j@bls.gov

Timothy Kennel (301) 763-6795

timothy.l.kennel@census.gov

Adam Safir (202) 691-5175

safir.adam@bls.gov

Fritz Scheuren (202) 320-3446

scheuren@aol.com



**Shiskin Award Committee**

Brian Bucks

Paul Bugg

Connie Citro

David Findley

Dennis Fixler

Michael Horrigan

Charles Hulten

Thomas Mesenbourg

Robert Parker (301) 467-7677

Steven Paben (202) 691-6147

John Ruser

brian.bucks@cfpb.gov

paul\_bugg@omb.eop.gov

ccitro@nas.edu

david.findley@ieee.org

dennis.fixler@bea.gov

horrigan.michael@bls.gov

hulten@econ.bsos.umd.edu

thomas.l.mesenbourg.jr@census.gov

parkerrobertp@aol.com

paben.steven@bls.gov

ruser.john@bls.gov

**Social Arrangements Committee**

Frank Yoon (202) 554-7518

FYoon@mathematica-mpr.com

**WSS Committee on ASA Fellows**

Cynthia Clark (202) 720-2707

Debbie Griffin (301) 763-2855

Polly Phipps (202) 691-7513

cynthia\_clark@nass.usda.gov

Deborah.h.griffin@census.gov

Phipps.polly@bls.gov

## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the **May, 2014** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15<sup>th</sup>** of **preceding month**.

Email items to [wss.editor@gmail.com](mailto:wss.editor@gmail.com).

The authors are responsible for verifying the contents of their submissions. Submissions requiring extensive revisions on length and/or contents will be returned.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format will be returned.

**PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ITEMS IN PDF OR IN THE BODY OF AN EMAIL.**



P.O. Box 2033  
Washington, DC 20013  
Washington  
Statistical  
Society

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