



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2** SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 4** SEMINARS
- 17** WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT
- 18** SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!
- 19** SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS
- 21** SHORT COURSES
- 23** EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 24** WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS
- 28** FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."
Benjamin Franklin*

Later this spring, the WSS will hold its annual election for several important positions on the Board of Directors. If you want to learn more about the activities of WSS, then you should consider running for office – it's the perfect way to serve the membership, hone your leadership skills, and network and socialize with colleagues!

For the 2015 elections the open positions include:

President-Elect (at least two nominees)

- for July 2015 to June 2016
- to serve as President July 2016 to June 2017 and Past-President July 2017 to June 2018

Secretary (at least one nominee)

- for July 2015 to June 2017

Two Representatives-at-Large (at least four nominees)

- for July 2015 to June 2017

Methodology Program Chair (at least two nominees)

- for July 2015 to June 2016
- to serve as Methodology Section Chair July 2016 to June 2017

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. For the 2015 election, nominees for President-Elect will be from the non-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 (self-nominations encouraged as well).

Please e-mail your nominations to Past-President Nancy Bates (nancy.a.bates@census.gov) by March 1, 2015.

Continuing Board members for 2015-16 will be:

- President: Chris Moriarty, CDC
- Past-President: Diane Herz, Mathematica
- Treasurer: Jill Dever, RTI
- At-large: Kennon Copeland, NORC, and Thomas Krenzke, Westat
- Methodology Section Chair: Donsig Jang, Mathematica
- Council of Chapters Representative (until December 31, 2015), Eileen O'Brien, EIA

Duties of board members can be found in the WSS handbook at:

<http://www.washstat.org/documents/WSSHandbookv5.pdf>

SEMINARS

Save the Date! – 24th Hansen Lecture

The 24th annual Hansen Lecture will be held on the afternoon of **Tuesday January 20th, 2015**, the exact time to be determined. The lecture will take place at the usual location, the USDA Auditorium.

The speaker will be Professor Danny Pfeffermann, Director of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel (along with many other titles!). The title of the lecture is “Methodological Issues and Challenges in the Production of Official Statistics.” There will be two discussants of Danny’s lecture – Professor Larry Brown of the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and John Eltinge, Associate Commissioner for the Office of Survey Methods Research at BLS.

So be sure put this special event in your calendar. A full announcement will be posted once the details are finalized.

- The Hansen Lecture Committee

Title: **Hierarchical Bayesian Method; for Combining Estimates from Multiple Surveys**

Date/Time: **January 30, 2015**
12:30– 1:30 pm

Speaker: Adrijo Chakraborty, NORC

Chair: Mike Fleming

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Section

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. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE across from Union Station. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Take the elevator or escalator at the north end of the tracks up to the Mezzanine level. Once you go through the exit gates, go past the ticket machines and down the ramp. The entrance to BLS will be directly across the street. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking>. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

Abstract: In order to estimate the number of occupied households, US Census Bureau conducts many surveys. As a result, we get different estimates of the number of occupied households from these surveys. While each survey is useful, differences among the estimates they produce are sometimes very large. To resolve these differences, we propose a hierarchical Bayesian method to obtain a more reliable estimate of the number of occupied households by combining estimates from these surveys.

We apply our method to the estimates from Current Population Survey (CPS)/Annual Social and Economic Supplement, CPS/Housing Vacancy Survey, American Community Survey, and American Housing Survey between 2002 and 2011 to produce a more reliable estimate of the number of occupied households.

This is a joint work with Dr. Gauri Datta and Dr Yang Cheng.

POC email: Chakraborty-Adrijo@norc.org

WebEx:

<https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m63adc5d960831d9aa933cf9f8d469891>

Audio:

Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048 (US)

Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139

(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2

Particular computer configurations may not be compatible with WebEx.

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS
WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC**

Title: **Introductory Statistics at the College Level—Making it More Exciting and Relevant**

Dates/Time: **February 2, 2015**
3:15– 4:30 pm
Informal reception to follow at East Street Café at Union Station

Panelists: Elizabeth Johnson, George Mason University;
Stephanie Talbot, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus;
Bonnie Kegan, U.S. Census Bureau, University of Maryland, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel Community College

Chair: Carol Joyce Blumberg, Winona State University and U.S. Energy Information Administration (Retired)

Sponsor: WSS Statistics Education Committee

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. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar.

BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE across from Union Station. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Take the elevator or escalator at the north end of the tracks up to the Mezzanine level. Once you go through the exit gates, go past the ticket machines and down the ramp. The entrance to BLS will be directly across the street. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking>. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

Abstract: Over the last twenty years there have been numerous changes in the statistical procedures used in the fields of study of the students taking introductory statistics. In addition, the technology has changed considerably, both for data analysis and delivery of the course content. Further, students are coming to the course with more knowledge of statistics from high school. The purpose of this seminar is to have three instructors of introductory statistics discuss how they have changed their

introductory statistics courses to adapt the content and technology to make them more relevant and exciting to their students.

POC email: Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

Audio/Slides: For remote access, call either (609) 945-6996 or (202) 554-7500. Then enter the access code of 997-925-450.

If you would like to receive a copy of the slides and/or handouts for this seminar the morning of the talk, please contact Carol Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com by **February 1, 2015**.

Title: Selected ICES-IV Presentations from the Newly Released Journal of Official Statistics Special Issue on Establishment Surveys

Date/Time: February 4, 2015
1:00– 4:30 pm

Chair: Darcy Miller, NASS

Sponsor: Methodology Section

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. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking>. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

Schedule:

- 1:00 Polly Phipps, BLS, Phipps.Polly@bls.gov
- 1:10 Richard Sigman, Westat, Richard.sigman@westat.com
- 1:40 Morgan Earp, BLS, Earp.Morgan@bls.gov
- 2:10 Mary Mulry, Census, mary.h.mulry@census.gov
- 2:40 Intermission
- 3:00 MoonJung Cho, BLS, Cho.Moon@bls.gov
- 3:30 Vanessa Torres, Utrecht University
Van Grinsven, Statistics Netherlands, V.TorresvanGrisven@cbs.nl
- 4:00 Daniell Toth, BLS, Toth.Daniell@bls.gov

WebEx: <https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m94030e09869538075cfe95f5d8a2b7fb>

Audio: Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048 (US)
Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139
(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2
Particular computer configurations may not be compatible with WebEx.

Abstracts:**Does the Length of Fielding Period Matter? Examining Response Scores of Early Versus Late Responders**

This paper discusses the potential effects of a shortened fielding period on a large, Federal employee survey's item and index scores and sample demographics. Using data from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's 2011 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, we investigate whether early responding employees differ from later responding employees on their key policy-relevant survey item scores. Specifically, we examine differences in scores on items and indices relating to conditions conducive to employee engagement and global satisfaction. We define early responders as those who responded in the first two weeks of the fielding period. We also examine the extent to which early versus late responders differ on certain demographic characteristics such as grade level, supervisory status, gender, tenure with agency, and intent to leave or retire. Our analysis focuses on large and independent Federal agencies so as to eliminate agencies with smaller sample sizes. Our findings provide insight about how a shorter fielding period and thus lower response rates (i.e. by including only early responders) affects sample characteristics and resulting estimates of Federal employee surveys.

-Richard Sigman¹, Taylor Lewis², Naomi Dye Yountr¹, Kimya Lee²

¹Westat, 1600 Research Blvd Rockville, MD 20850

²U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20415

Modeling Nonresponse in Establishment Surveys: Using an Ensemble Tree Model to Create Nonresponse Propensity Scores and Detect Potential Bias in an Agricultural Survey

Increasing nonresponse rates in federal surveys and potentially biased survey estimates are a growing concern, especially with regard to establishment surveys. Unlike household surveys, not all establishments contribute equally to survey estimates. With regard to agricultural surveys, if an extremely large farm fails to complete a survey, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) could potentially underestimate average acres operated among other things. In order to identify likely nonrespondents prior to data collection, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began modeling nonresponse using Census of Agriculture data and prior Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) response history. Using an ensemble of classification trees, NASS has estimated nonresponse propensities for ARMS that can be used to predict nonresponse and are correlated with key ARMS estimates.

-Morgan Earp¹, Melissa Mitchell², Jaki McCarthy², & Frauke Kreuter³

¹Bureau of Labor Statistics

²National Agricultural Statistics Service

³Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland

Detecting and Treating Verified Influential Values in a Monthly Retail Trade Survey

In survey data, an observation is considered influential if it is reported correctly and its weighted contribution has an excessive effect on a key estimate, such as an estimate of total or change. In previous research with data from the U.S. Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS), two methods, Clark Winsorization and weighted M-estimation, have shown potential to detect and adjust influential observations. This paper discusses results of the application of a simulation methodology that generates realistic population time-series data. The new strategy enables evaluating Clark Winsorization and weighted M-estimation over repeated samples and producing conditional and unconditional performance measures. The analyses consider several scenarios for the occurrence of influential observations in the MRTS and assess the performance of the two methods for estimates of total retail sales and month-to-month change.

-Mary H. Mulry, Broderick E. Oliver, Stephen J. Kaputa, U.S. Census Bureau

Analytic Tools for Evaluating Variability of Standard Errors in Large-Scale Establishment Surveys

Large-scale establishment surveys often exhibit substantial temporal or cross-sectional variability in their published standard errors. This article uses a framework defined by survey generalized variance functions to develop three sets of analytic tools for evaluation of these patterns of variability. These tools are for (1) identification of predictor variables that explain some of the observed temporal and cross-sectional variability in published standard errors; (2) evaluation of the proportion of variability attributable to the predictors, equation error and estimation error, respectively; and (3) comparison of equation error variances across groups defined by observable predictor variables. The primary ideas are motivated and illustrated by an application to the U.S. Current Employment Statistics program.

-MoonJung Cho, John Eltinge, Julie Gershunskaya, Larry Huff, Bureau of Labor Statistics

In Search of Motivation for the Business Survey Response Task

Increasing reluctance of businesses to participate in surveys often leads to declining or low response rates, poor data quality and burden complaints, and suggests that a driving force, that is, the motivation for participation and accurate and timely response, is insufficient or lacking. Inspiration for ways to remedy this situation has already been sought in the psychological theory of self-determination; previous research has favored enhancement of intrinsic motivation compared to extrinsic motivation. Traditionally however, enhancing extrinsic motivation has been pervasive in business surveys. We therefore review this theory in the context of business surveys using empirical data from the Netherlands and Slovenia, and suggest that extrinsic motivation calls for at least as much attention as intrinsic motivation, that other sources of motivation may be relevant besides those stemming from the three fundamental psychological needs (competence, autonomy and relatedness), and that other approaches may have the potential to better explain some aspects of motivation in business

surveys (e.g., implicit motives). We conclude with suggestions that survey organizations can consider when attempting to improve business survey response behavior.

-Vanessa Torres van Grinsven,¹ Irena Bolko,² and Mojca Bavdaž²

¹Utrecht University and Statistics Netherlands

²University of Ljubljana

Data Smearing: An Approach to Disclosure Limitation for Tabular Data

Statistical agencies often collect sensitive data for release to the public at aggregated levels in the form of tables. To protect confidential data, some cells are suppressed in the publicly released data. One problem with this method is that many cells of interest must be suppressed in order to protect a much smaller number of sensitive cells. Another problem is that the covariates used to aggregate and level of aggregation must be suppressed before the data is released. Both of these restrictions can severely limit the utility of the data. We propose a new disclosure limitation method that replaces the full set of micro-data with synthetic data for use in producing released data in tabular form. This synthetic data set is obtained by replacing each unit's values with a weighted-average of sampled values from the surrounding area. The synthetic data is produced in a way to give asymptotically unbiased estimates for aggregate cells as the number of units in the cell increases. The method is applied to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data, which is released to the public quarterly, in tabular form, aggregated across varying scales of time, area, and economic sector.

-Daniell Toth, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Title: **The Caste Freedom Index**

Date/Time: **February 10, 2015**
12:30– 2:00 pm

Speaker: Don Zimmerman, Ph.D., Vice Chair, International Commission for Dalit Rights (ICDR) and Professor and Director, the Graduate School, University of Maryland , University College, Adelphi MD

Chair: Dr. Dambar K (DK) Gurung, Treasurer and founding Member, ICDR, and Applied Economist

Sponsor: WSS Human Rights Statistics Program, DC-AAPOR, and the Capital Area Social Psychological Association

Location: Offices of Mathematica-MPR

1101 1st Street NE, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20002 (near L Street, north of Union Station)

By Metro: take the Red Line to either the New York Ave Station or Union Station. From the New York Ave Station, follow signs to exit at M Street out of the station and walk 1 block west on M street and 2 blocks south on 1st Street (the building will be on your right). From Union Station, walk north along 1st Street for about 4-5 blocks until you reach L Street (the building will be on your left after crossing L street).

By Car: Pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which is located 1 block east of North Capitol on L Street NE. Once in the building, take the elevators to the 12th floor and inform the secretary that you are attending the WSS seminar.

Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220) if you have trouble finding the building.

A remote viewing option may be available; please wait for updates to this announcement.

Abstract:

Caste-based systems are defined by the stratification of individuals based on social status at birth. There are over 260 million people in South Asia that are currently defined at the bottom of the caste-structure. Named “Dalits,” these people are excluded from civil, political, and economic opportunities, openly and latently discriminated against, and routinely faced with imminent torture, death, rape, assault, human trafficking, and untouchability.

At present, there is no single instrument to measure and monitor caste-based discrimination or caste and gender-based violence at the local, national, and global level. We believe that creating a standardized measurement and advocacy framework will provide a clear and present benchmark for determining the current status of discrimination and, as importantly, future progress towards a positive social impact.

To assess (and address) issues related to caste-based systems, in late 2013, leaders of the International Commission for Dalit Rights (ICDR) along with experts from Statistics without Borders (SWB) of the American Statistical Association, began work on a Caste Freedom Index (CFI).

The CFI is a unique statistical tool to evaluate the relative exclusion/inclusion of Dalits from civil, economic, and political structures associated with caste-based systems. The preliminary structure of the instrument is based upon a 6x5 matrix designed to represent six human rights domains across five social-political dimensions. Current domains consist of: (1) Constitutional and Legal Principles, (2) Political and Social Actions, (3) Economic Activity, Community relations, and (4) Individual and Family Experience. Dimensions consist of: (1) Life, health, and Shelter; (2) Family life, privacy and personal dignity; (3) Employment, fair pay, economic opportunity; (4) Freedom of expression, freedom of movement; (5) Political representation; and (6) Access to justice, protection from crime.

Complete development of the CFI is occurring over four stages with an initial feasibility stage recently concluded in Nepal this last Fall.

At present, work continues on several key methodological issues that will further define the CFI's final form. These areas of inquiry include the sampling strategy, data reliability and validity issues, and the integration of the tool into multi-level policy making processes, among others.

POC:

Michael P. Cohen, mpcohen@juno.com or 202-403-6453.

Title: **Costs vs Benefits: The 2014 Content Review of the American Community Survey**

Dates/Time: **February 17, 2015
12:30– 1:30 pm**

Speaker: Jim Treat, US Census Bureau

Chair: Jennifer Park

Sponsor: Methodology Section and Public Policy

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. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking>. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

Abstract: The American Community Survey (ACS) is the largest survey in the Nation, annually collecting demographic, social, and economic statistics for small areas and small populations, and providing 1-, 3-, and 5-year data products for virtually every community across the country. In an effort to ensure the least burden on the public at the greatest benefit, the Census Bureau conducted in 2014 a content review of all 72 household and person-based questions on the survey. This discussion will present the results of that review, including the methodological approach used and decision criteria employed. Lastly, we will present the results of the analysis, including the seven questions identified as candidates for removal, and next steps in the process to finalize any survey changes.

POC email: gary.b.chappell@census.gov

WebEx:

<https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m15d211d187a5f08940b7b8bc197ee38b>

Audio:

Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048 (US)

Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139

(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2

Particular computer configurations may not be compatible with WebEx.

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

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



Meet WSS Social Committee Chair Shelly Rose...

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

Mathematica Policy Research. I work as a data analyst, specifically I maintain performance management systems for the government.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

I love the challenge of writing complicated algorithms and then seeing them put into action.

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

... meet new people with similar interests since I just moved to the DC area.

4. What was your first job?

My education is in engineering, so my first job was to maintain the communications systems at Pimlico racetrack in Baltimore.

5. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?

I would love to play the violin for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Unfortunately, I don't play the violin.

6. What is your favorite daily ritual?

Reading world news.

7. If you could have dinner with 3 people from history, who would they be?

Jesus, Golda Meir, and Coco Chanel.

8. Finish this sentence: "On an ideal Saturday, I would..."

... fly to Paris, sit in the Jardin des Tuileries, paint the garden and cityscape, eat a crepe with Nutella, and talk to the locals.

9. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

Steamed blue crabs!!

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

I love learning and staying active. I'm currently in the middle of getting SCUBA certified and I'm studying French to become fluent. Next will be swing dancing lessons.

SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!

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), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

Roger Herriot Award

Roger Herriot was the Associate Commissioner of Statistical Standards and Methodology at the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) when he died in 1994. Prior to his service at NCES, he also held several positions at the U.S. Census Bureau, including Chief of the Population Division. Soon after his death, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA) along with the Washington Statistical Society (a chapter of ASA) established the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to recognize individuals or teams who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs.

Nominations are sought for the **2015 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 or teams 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. As innovation often requires or results from teamwork, team nominations are encouraged. Team innovations often are more lasting, resulting in real paradigm shifts, not just one-off improvements. For an example, see the 1998 Herriot (team) award.

The recipient of the 2013 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 2013. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past Award Recipients:

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, NCES, 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)
2012 - Paul Biemer (RTI International)
2013 - Exact Match Team (Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, and Internal Revenue Service)
2014 - Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics study; Abowd, Haltiwanger, Lane

Nominations for the 2015 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2015**. 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. For team nominations, the vitae of all team members should be included.

The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Fritz Scheuren, Chair of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202-320-3446 or Scheuren@aol.com. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2015.** Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

SHORT COURSES

Issues in Data Science: Unpacking “Big Data”

JANUARY 22-23, 2015

College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Hyattsville, MD 20783

Presented by Cliff Lampe

Registration and Payment Due by January 8, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=012215

Leveraging Mobile & Social Technologies for Data Collection

FEBRUARY 10-11, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Michael W. Link

Registration and Payment Due by January 27, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=021015

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System

FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann

Registration and Payment Due by February 11, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=022515

Writing Questions for Surveys

MARCH 12-13, 2015

Presented by Nora Cate Schaeffer

Registration and Payment Due by February 26, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=031215

Practical Tools for Sampling and Weighting Survey Samples

MARCH 30-31, 2015

Presented by Richard L. Valliant and Jill A. Dever

Registration and Payment Due by March 16, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=033015

Introduction to Survey Management

APRIL 16-17, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Steven G. Heeringa and Nancy Gebler

Registration and Payment Due by April 2, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=041615

Total Survey Error

MAY 4-5, 2015

Presented by Paul P. Biemer and Lars Lyberg

Registration and Payment Due by April 20, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=050415

Introduction to Survey Estimation

MAY 28-29, 2015

Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee

Registration and Payment Due by May 14, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=052815

Practical Tools for Nonresponse Bias Studies

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Presented by Jill Montaquila and Kristen Olson

Registration and Payment Due by September 4, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=091815

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Bureau Deputy Director, ES-0110

Bureau of Economic Analysis, Washington, DC

Federal Executive Service Opportunity

Salary range: \$120,749 - \$181,500

BEA is recognized throughout the U.S. and around the world as a key source for the best and most comprehensive economic statistics available, such as gross domestic product (GDP), corporate profits, and personal income.

As Deputy Director, you will manage a highly-skilled team of diverse professionals in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of economic data; manage all facets of BEA; and coordinate with policymakers in Congress, Council of Economic Advisers, National Economic Council, Federal Reserve, Office of Management and Budget, and U.S. Treasury.

At a time when big data is transforming our society—including governments—you will face the task of leading change while maintaining BEA's reputation for quality and objectivity.

Some travel, a Top Secret clearance, and U.S. citizenship are required. For detailed information and to apply online, access the vacancy announcement on www.usajobs.gov and enter keyword SES-2015-0012. Application Deadline: January 15, 2015

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

VOTING MEMBERS

President

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

Past President

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

President-Elect

Chris Moriarity (301) 270-3416 cdm7@cdc.gov

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Jill Dever (202) 974-7846 jdever@rti.org

Representative-at-Large

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

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

Kennon Copeland (301) 634-9432

copeland-kennon@norc.org

Thomas Krenzke (301) 251-4203

tomkrenzke@westat.com

Council of Chapters Representative

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

Methodology Section Chair

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

Communication Officer

Tom Mule (301) 763-8322 vincent.t.mule.jr@census.gov

NON-VOTING MEMBERS – PROGRAMS**Methodology Program Chair**

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

Methodology Program

Yulei He (301) 458-4533 Wdq7@cdc.gov

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mel Kollander (703) 642-8079 mellk@starpower.net Eduardo Rodela (301) 564-7586 rodela.eduardo@epa.gov

Mike Fleming (703) 631-5869 cflaming@cox.net Adam Rettig (443) 465-9660 adam_rettig@yahoo.com

Barry Nussbaum (202) 566-1493 nussbaum.barry@epa.gov

Data Collection Methods

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

Defense and National Security

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

Economics

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

Human Rights

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

Public Health and Biostatistics

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

Public Policy

Michael L. Cohen (202) 334-3765 mcohen@nas.edu

Public Policy

Jennifer Park (202) 395-9046 Jennifer_E_Park@omb.eop.gov

Quality Assurance

VACANT

Social and Demographic Statistics

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

Statistical Computing

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

Student Representative

Tim Allen (202) 465-1434 tim.allen@fema.dhs.gov

NON-VOTING MEMBERS – COMMITTEES AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**Quantitative Literacy**Dhuly Chowdury (301) 770-8234 dchowdhury@rti.org**Short Courses**Yang Cheng (301) 763-3287 yang.cheng@census.gov**WSS Newsletter Editor**Colleen Choi wss.editor@gmail.com**Electronic Mail Committee**S.V. (Vince) Massimini (703) 983-5893 sum@mitre.org**Employment Column Coordinator**Anne Peterson (703) 504-9483 apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com**Financial Advisor and Audit Committee**Jonaki Bose (240) 276-1257 jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov J. Michael Brick (301) 294-2004 mikebrick@westat.com**Historian**Dwight Brock (301) 517-4026 [dwightbrock@westat.com](mailto:dwrightbrock@westat.com)**Social Arrangements Committee**Shelly Craig (202) 552-6433 SCraig@mathematica-mpr.com**Video Conferencing**Dan Gillman (202) 691-7523 gillman.daniel@bls.gov**Video Librarian**Phil Kalina (703) 725-6600 phil@philkalina.com**Web Master**Tim Allen (202) 465-1434 tim.allen@fema.dhs.gov**Curtis Jacob Memorial Committee**Brian Sloboda (202) 693-5904 Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov**Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition**Barnali Das (301) 279-4593 barnalidas@westat.com**Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator**John Tillinghast (301) 763-3738 John.tillinghast@census.gov**Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coordinator**Mark Otto (301) 497-5872 mark_otto@fws.gov

Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coordinator

Frank Yoon (609) 945-6616 FYoon@Mathematica-Mpr.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

Herriot Award Committee

Jill Montaquila (301) 517-4046 jillmontaquila@westat.com

John Dixon (202) 691-7516 dixon.john@bls.gov

W\$\$ Committee on ASA Fellow

Polly Phipps (202) 691-7513 Phipps.polly@bls.gov

Cynthia Clark (703) 556-8825 czfclark@cox.net

Shiskin Award Committee

Robert Parker (301) 467-7677 parkerrobertp@aol.com

Thomas Evans (202) 691-6354 Evans.thomas@bls.gov

Paul Bugg paul_bugg@omb.eop.gov

Connie Citro ccitro@nas.edu

David Findley david.findley@ieee.org

Dennis Fixler dennis.fixler@bea.gov

Hansen Lecture Committee

Barry Graubard (202) 276-7316 graubarb@mail.nih.gov

Don Malec (301) 458-4031 dmalec@cdc.gov

John Czajka (202) 484-4685 jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com

Gertrude Cox Award Committee

*Chris Moriarity (301) 270-3416 cdm7@cdc.gov

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

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

**WSS Rep.*

Statistics Education Committee

Carol Blumberg (301) 273-3093 cblumberg@gmail.com

Adam Safir (202) 691-5175 safir.adam@bls.gov

Fritz Scheuren (202) 320-3446 scheuren@aol.com

Fritz Scheuren (202) 974-7846 scheuren@aol.com

Debbie Griffin Deb_Griffin3@verizon.net

Michael Horrigan horrigan.michael@bls.gov

Charles Hulten hulten@econ.bsos.umd.edu

William Bostic William.g.bostic.jr@census.gov

John Ruser ruser.john@bls.gov

Brian Bucks brian.bucks@cfpb.gov

Steven Paben paben.steven@bls.gov

Eric Slud eric.v.slud@census.gov

Mark Harris (703) 877-8000 ext. 100 mark_harris@nass.usda.gov

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

**Karol Krotki (202) 728-2485 kkrotki@rti.org

**Marcus Berzofsky (919) 316-3752 berzofsky@rti.org

**Phillip Kott (301) 468-8281 pkott@rti.org

***RTI Rep.*

Elizabeth Johnson ejohns40@gmu.edu

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **February, 2015** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20th** of **preceding month**.

Email items to 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