

WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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WHAT'S THE LATEST WITH WSS?

New WSS Board members announced for 2015-16

The WSS election closed on May 26 with 357 members casting ballots.

Winners are as follows:

President-elect: Michael Larsen, George Washington University

At Large: Wendy Barboza, National Agricultural Statistics Service and Erin Tanebaum, NORC at University of Chicago

Methodology Chair-elect: Pam McGovern, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Secretary: Darcy Miller, National Agricultural Statistics Service

I want to thank all of the nominees who agreed to stand for various offices. I also want to thank the WSS members who submitted names along with members of the nominations committee who helped vet such an outstanding pool of nominees. Finally, thanks to Westat and at-large board member Tom Krenzke for help running the election—the Society is very grateful for the pro-bono services they provided. We look forward to welcoming the new members at the June 23rd meeting of the Board.

~ Nancy Bates, Past-President and Chair of the Nominations Committee

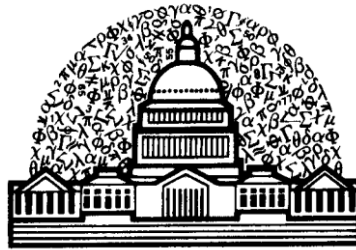
Congratulations! WSS Members Elected as Fellows of the American Statistical Association

We are pleased to announce that six members of the Washington Statistical Society were recently elected as Fellows of the American Statistical Association. ASA Fellowship is a broad recognition of an individual's contribution to the field of statistics, the statistical profession, and the ASA. Congratulations to each of our new Fellows, who continue the tradition of strong WSS representation among those elected as Fellows. These new Fellows will be honored at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle.

- Kennon R. Copeland, NORC at the University of Chicago
- Jill A. Dever, RTI International
- Linda Jacobsen, Population Reference Bureau
- Peter V. Miller, US Census Bureau
- Frank J. Potter, Mathematica Policy Research
- Diane K. Willimack, US Census Bureau

The WSS Committee on ASA Fellows works to identify members who are deserving of this honor and coordinate the preparation and submission of WSS nominations. Everyone is encouraged to identify colleagues who would be strong candidates. It is never too early to get the nomination process started. Please contact committee chair Polly Phipps at phipps.polly@bls.gov with suggestions for nominees or questions about the process.

~ Diane Herz, WSS President 2014-15
~ Cynthia Clark
~ Debbie Griffin
~ Polly Phipps
WSS Committee on ASA Fellows 2014-15



The Washington Statistical Society

cordially invites you to the

Cox Award Presentation

Dr. Jae Kwang Kim

Professor of Statistics, Iowa State University

Best prediction using area level models combining information from survey samples and big data

- and -

Annual Dinner

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Speaker event commences at 4:00 PM

RTI International

701 13th St NW Suite 750, Washington, DC

Dinner commences at 6:00 PM

National Press Club

529 14th Street NW, 13th Floor, Washington, DC 20045

Holeman Lounge

The Gertrude M. Cox Award is co-sponsored by RTI International

REGISTRATION

All are encouraged to attend both events regardless of WSS membership status.

Please register for each event you will be attending.

For the Cox Award Presentation, please email Shelly Rose and indicate that you will be attending. SRose@Mathematica-MPR.com

For the Annual Dinner, the registration fee is \$45 for WSS Members and \$50 for guests and nonmembers:

Registration ends on June 17th, 2015

1. Register online at goo.gl/6gH7bk
2. Follow instructions in the online registration form to:
 - a. Pay by credit card
 - b. Pay by check
3. Please check your email for your receipt. Let Shelly Rose know if you have not received it. SRose@mathematica-mp.com

DINNER MENU

Salad

Chardonnay Poached Pear, Baby Greens, Blue Cheese, Walnuts and Peppercorn Vinaigrette

Entrees

Peruvian Roasted Chicken with Mashed Purple Potatoes, Black Beans and Yucca Crisp

Acorn Squash with Wild Rice, Cranberries, Apricots and Pecans, Apple Jack Reduction

Dessert

Tres Leches Cake

2015 Cox Award

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International are pleased to announce that Dr. Jae Kwang Kim, Professor of Statistics, Iowa State University has been chosen as this year's recipient of the Gertrude M. Cox Award. Dr. Kim received his PhD in 2000 from Iowa State University, where he was the Director of the Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology with which he is still associated. Dr. Kim has 45 papers in or soon to be in the refereed statistical literature with much more to come. He has co-authored with Jun Shao one highly-regarded book in English, *Statistical Methods for Handling Incomplete Data* (he is sole author of another in Korean). His published work showcases his penetrating insights into survey sampling, both theoretical and practical, especially in the areas of imputation, variance estimation, two-phase sampling, and the analysis of survey data.

Dr. Kim will give a seminar ("Best prediction using area level models combining several source of information from survey sample and big data") on Tuesday 23 June, 4pm, at the RTI offices in Washington DC and will be formally awarded at the WSS Annual Dinner held later the same day.

The abstract for Dr. Kim's talk:

Combining information from different sources is an important practical problem. Using hierarchical area level models, we establish a frequentist framework for combining information from different sources to get improved prediction for small or large area estimation. The best prediction is obtained by the conditional expectation of the observable latent variable given all available observations. The model parameters are estimated by a two-level EM algorithm. Estimation of the mean squared prediction error is discussed. Sponsored by National Agricultural Statistical Agency (NASS) of US Department of Agriculture, the proposed method was applied to the crop acreage prediction problem combining information from three sources: The June Area Survey (JAS), which is obtained by the probability sampling, Farm Service Agency (FSA) data, which are obtained from a voluntary participation of certain programs., and classification of satellite image data--called Cropland Data Layer (CDL).

The Cox Award, established in 2003 through a joint agreement between WSS and RTI, recognizes statisticians in early to mid-career who have made significant contributions to statistical practice. The award is in memory of Gertrude M. Cox (1900-1978), who in the 1950s played a key role in establishing Mathematical Statistics and Biostatistics Departments at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Statistical Division at the then newly founded RTI.

This award is made possible by funding from RTI. The recipient is chosen by a six person committee - three each from RTI and WSS. This year's committee consists of WSS representatives Nancy Bates, Diane Herz (Co-Chair), and Chris Moriarity and from RTI Jill Dever, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (Co-Chair), and. The award consists of a \$1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS dinner, and a WSS plaque. Past recipients in chronological order: Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, Nilanjan Chatterjee, Amy Herring, Frauke Kreuter, and Jerry Reiter.

SEMINAR

- Title:** **Non-probability Samples**
- Date/Time:** **September 9, 2015**
12:30– 3:30 pm
- Moderator:** Don Jang, Mathematica Policy Research
- Sponsor:** Methodology Section
- Location:** Offices of Mathematica-MPR 1100 1st Street NE, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20002. Once in the building, inform the receptionist at the first floor lobby that you are visiting Mathematica for a WSS seminar. Then, take the elevators to the 12th floor and tell the Mathematica receptionist that you are attending the WSS seminar. Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220), if you have trouble finding the building.
- By Metro: Take the Red Line to either the NoMa-Gallaudet U (used to be called New York Ave) Station or Union Station. From the NoMa-Gallaudet U Station, follow signs to exit at M Street. Then walk 1 block west on M street and 2 blocks south on 1st Street NE (the building will be on your right). From Union Station, walk north along 1st Street NE 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.
- Guest List** To be placed on the attendance list for webinar, please RSVP to Alyssa Maccarone at amaccarone@mathematica-mpr.com or (202) 250-3570 at least 2 days in advance of the conference. Provide your name, affiliation, and contact information (e-mail is preferred). Once on the attendance list, you will be provided with information about webinar.

Schedule:

| Time | Speaker | Affiliation | Point of Contact |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 12:30 | Mike Fleming | WSS | charles.fleming@bhox.com |
| 12:35 | Don Jang | MPR | DJang@Mathematica-Mpr.com |
| 12:40 | Mike Brick | Westat | mikebrick@westat.com |
| 1:05 | Michael Sinclair | MPR | MSinclair@mathematica-mpr.com |
| 1:30 | Jill A. Dever | RTI International | jdever@rti.org |
| 2:00 | Intermission | | |
| 2:15 | Scott Keeter | Pew Research Center | SKeeter@PewResearch.org |
| 2:40 | Richard Valliant | Universities of Michigan and Maryland | rvallian@umd.edu |

Abstract:

This Washington Statistical Society conference on non-probability samples follows upon the 2014 WSS President's Invited Lecture given by Mike Brick who discussed the findings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) task force on conditions under which survey designs that do not use probability samples might still be useful for making inferences to a larger population. The speakers of this conference will discuss applications of using non-probability samples and their implications.

Non-Probability Sampling Assumptions and Methods

Non-probability sampling must rely on modeling to make inference because design-based theory is impossible without known selection probabilities. The typical opt-in, non-probability survey applies weights to the sample observations in ways that mimic methods from probability samples. This weighting process implies a set of assumptions about the distributions of the variables and the selection mechanisms. In this talk, we begin by reviewing some of these weighting methods and the implied or explicit model assumptions. Next, we discuss whether some of the lessons learned from probability sample designs can be employed to improve the accuracy of non-probability samples.

~ Mike Brick

Vice President and co-Director of the Survey Methods Unit at Westat

Non-Probability Samples and Panel Surveys: A look at Two Strategies for Blending Panel Surveys with Traditional Probability Samples

With increasing survey costs, reduced participation rates, and a greater need for timely and domain specific estimates to inform treatment and policy decisions, interest has grown in the use of panel surveys and other forms of extant data to augment traditional survey methods. Likewise, while the direct use of panel surveys and nonprobability based samples have been widely accepted for polling and marketing research studies, the authors suspect that a broader array of researchers may begin to look at methods to answer questions where traditional survey methods are dominant. Given concerns with the representative nature of panel data, researchers may require some form of validation provided by an independent and smaller probability based data collection. To cover both of these situations, we present two approaches for blending data from panel or non-probability sample collections with probability samples. The first approach is based on the work of Valliant, Dorfman and Royall (2000) coupled with the use of a composite estimator that we suggest may be most useful when a traditional probability based survey data collection is used to validate a larger panel study. The second approach explores the use of a matching process based on Guo and Fraser (2010) to supplement a traditional survey with panel survey data to produce estimates for smaller geographical area, for cases with rare characteristics or to create survey estimates between study cycles to generate more timely information. We will also explore the use of Bayesian statistical methods to capture the variability in the blending procedures based in part on the work of Zheng and Little (2003) and Zangeneh and Little (2012).

~ Michael Sinclair
Senior Fellow at Mathematica Policy Research

Can Estimated-Control Calibration Reduce Bias in Estimates from Nonprobability Samples?

Nonprobability (or design-free) surveys are becoming more prevalent because they offer both increased speed in obtaining data on emerging issues (e.g., an opt-in web survey) and decreased costs compared with probability-based surveys. However, evaluation studies have shown that many nonprobability estimates are biased because of errors associated with coverage, selection, and model misspecification.

Calibrating design-based survey weights to control totals estimated from other surveys has been implemented for years. Referred to as estimated control (EC) calibration, this technique has been shown to reduce bias for design-based estimates beyond levels seen when calibrating to typical controls alone (e.g., demographic characteristics, geographic location). By comparison, propensity score adjustments (PSA) are used to calculate estimates from nonprobability surveys, and may include questionnaire items (e.g., webographic questions) as logistic model covariates. However, research to date on PSA shows mixed results with bias reduction.

This presentation begins with a brief background on PSA and EC calibration techniques. Next, results are discussed from an empirical study to compare bias reduction obtained from the two methods for nonprobability samples. The presentation concludes with future research.

~ Jill A. Dever
Senior Survey Statistician, RTI International

An Exploration of Threats to Inference with Nonprobability Samples: Bias, Homogeneity, Both or Neither?

Aside from coverage problems, online panels based on nonprobability samples may suffer from large but unknown biases in the types of internet users who participate. These samples may be significantly less diverse than in a typical random sample of the public. This presentation will compare probability samples and nonprobability samples from several vendors, focusing on both the comparison of probability versus nonprobability samples and the differences among the nonprobability samples on a set of variables that may be related to the propensity to take part in a survey. Among the topics addressed will be the impact of adjustments and weighting on the bias including relationships among variables and subgroups and the effective sample size relative to the cost per interview.

~ Scott Keeter
Director of Survey Research, Pew Research Center

Inferential Problems with Nonprobability Samples

This talk will briefly review some of the basic issues in making inferences to populations using samples where the investigator has limited control over which units appear in the sample. Repeated sampling (design-based) inference cannot be used, so if estimators have any justification, it must be model-based. Finding a model(s) that can be used to project a sample to a population is, thus, the critical step. Approaches that have been proposed are (1) use of models to calculate of pseudo inclusion probabilities to use in quasi-randomization inference, (2) projection using population structural models for analysis variables, and (3) combinations of (1) and (2). Combining probability samples (reference surveys) with nonprobability samples is one line of attack for (1). Calibration estimation (e.g., raking or poststratification) has been used for (2). Validating the models and the procedures used by different organizations is difficult. Some options for testing the methods will be discussed.

~ Richard Valliant
Research Professor, Universities of Michigan and Maryland

CALL FOR PAPERS/CONFERENCE

Call for Presentation and Poster Session Abstracts Summer Conference Preview/Review 2015

Hosted by the DC-Baltimore Chapter of the American Association for Public
Opinion Research and
the Washington Statistical Society
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC

Monday, August 3, 2015

We know you can't travel to every conference, so DC-AAPOR and WSS are teaming up to bring you a sample of exemplary presentations (both talks and posters) taking place at this year's national and local survey research methods and statistical conferences. At the 2015 Summer Conference Preview/Review on August 3rd, you will get the opportunity to share your work, hear what others are doing, and connect with colleagues.

We are currently seeking **presenters** (both talks and posters) who presented or will be presenting at the following 2015 conferences:

- American Association for Public Opinion Research 70th Annual Conference
- Joint Statistical Meetings
- FedCASIC
- European Survey Research Association Conference
- International Field Directors and Technologies 49th Annual Conference
- International Total Survey Error Conference
- Other 2015 survey methodology conferences

We also invite speakers whose presentations were accepted but were unable to present.

Please submit presentations that have already been prepared, submitted, and accepted to a 2015 conference. If you would like to submit an abstract for consideration, download, complete, and email this submission form:

http://dc-aapor.org/2015_abstract_submission_form.pdf

by midnight (EST) Thursday, July 2, 2015 to dcaapor@gmail.com.

Individuals will be notified of acceptance decisions by July 13th.

This year, we are moving to a one-day, concurrent session format. Registration will open in July. Registration will be open to everyone, but presenters get a discount.

- Presenters:
 - Students - \$25
 - All others - \$40

- Early Bird (on or before July 27th):
 - Student/Retirees - \$35
 - DC-AAPOR and WSS Members - \$50
 - Non-Members - \$75

- Late Registration (after July 27th):
 - Student/Retirees: \$60
 - DC-AAPOR and WSS Members: \$75
 - Non-Members: \$100

See last year's conference program at: http://dc-aapor.org/Summer Conference Program_2014.pdf.

If you have questions, please contact the conference chair, Carl Ramirez (ramirezc@gao.gov).
For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Robin Kaplan (Kaplan.Robin@bls.gov).

FFC/2015: The 21st Federal Forecasters Conference

Date: September 24, 2015

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212

Check-In: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Schedule: 9:00 am - 4:15 pm
(Plenary and concurrent session schedule to follow)

Abstract Submission Due: August 1, 2015

Contest Entry Deadline: August 1, 2015

Register Online By: September 10, 2015 at www.21st-ffc-2015.eventbrite.com
There is no charge for participation

Theme: Are Forecasts Accurate? Does it Matter?

Forecasts typically undergo a review before they are released to judge whether or not the forecast adheres to commonly accepted technical practice. Forecasts often face an ex post evaluation that focuses on realized accuracy. Whether forecasting immigration or emigration, agricultural production and price, mineral reserves and prices, or forecasting the direction of labor, economic, education, energy, and revenue trends, forecasters face similar private and public scrutiny. How are forecasts evaluated? How is forecast accuracy judged? How does the accuracy of forecasts affect users? Add your voice to the discussion. Join us at the 21st Federal Forecasters Conference, where these and other forecasting questions will be addressed.

Suggested Presentation Topics for the Afternoon Sessions

- General topics in forecasting
- Case studies: Using forecasts in policy decision making
- Forecast methodology
- Forecast evaluation

~ 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
U.S. Energy Information Administration • U.S. Geological Survey**

~ Partnering Organizations ~

**Research Program on Forecasting • George Washington University
Society of Government Economists • Office of Revenue Analysis
DC Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Office of Revenue Analysis,
DC Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

FFC/2015: The 21st Federal Forecasters Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS

The FFC Board invites you to present a paper at one of the afternoon concurrent sessions. Please note, papers are not restricted to the official conference theme and may cover any subject relating to forecasting or estimation. Presenters are encouraged to provide a written version of their presentation. Individual presentations of the papers will be limited to 15 to 20 minutes in length. Please send your abstract of 100 or fewer words to:

Michelle.Chu@irs.gov by August 1, 2015.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their paper in a Microsoft Word file (preferred) or Adobe Acrobat PDF file by **November 1, 2015 to William Hussar (william.hussar@edu.gov)** to ensure their paper's inclusion in the conference proceedings.

See next page for the recommended format. All papers presented in the afternoon concurrent sessions and provided by November 1, 2015 will be published as Proceedings of the 2015 Federal Forecasters Conference. A panel of judges will determine the best paper presented during the concurrent sessions and recognition will be awarded at the following Federal Forecasters Conference.

Title Centered in 12-Point Bold Times New Roman Type

Author and organization centered in normal 10-point Times New Roman

Please compose, format, and spell check your document in Microsoft Word. Format all text in a double-column, normal 10-point Times New Roman font type, and columns should be square. Left and right margins must be 1" and the spacing between the two columns must be 0.2".

Text should be single-spaced, with double spacing between paragraphs. Small tables and figures may be included in the column text, but place all larger tables and figures at the end of the document in single column format.

Refer to the FFC/2014 Proceedings volume for examples of the recommended paper format (available at www.federalforecasters.org).

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their papers in a Microsoft Word file (preferred) or Adobe Acrobat PDF by November 1, 2015. Please email the file to William Hussar at william.hussar@ed.gov. Final papers will be published on the Federal Forecasters website as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file.

Your paper may be omitted from the FFC/2015 Proceedings Volume if you fail to conform to these guidelines.

**FFC/2015--- The Federal Forecasters Conference Contest
Official Entry Form
Entries due August 1, 2015**

Name: _____

Agency/Department: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please write your forecasts in the boxes provided for the following 5 items. Put your forecasts in the same format as the example. The forecasts will be judged by the ranking method (analysis of variance by ranks).

| Question | Forecast |
|---|----------|
| 1. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the month of July 2015. (Example: For April 2014, the national unemployment rate was 6.7%) | |
| 2. Number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, in July 2015. (Example: In April 2014 the number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, was 907,000) | |
| 3. Average temperature at Reagan National Airport for August 15, 2015. (Example: On April 1, 2014, the average was 52 °F) | |
| 4. Closing price of the S&P 500 on August 14, 2015. (Example: The closing price of the S&P on April 1, 2014 was 1,885.52) | |
| 5. Closing price of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. on August 14, 2015 (Ticker: GMCR). (Example: Closing price closed at \$109.77 on April 1, 2014) Note: Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. changed its name in 2014 to Keurig Green Mountain Inc. The ticker symbol is still the same. | |

We will announce the winner at the FFC/2015 Conference, Thursday, September 24, 2015. All decisions of the contest judges are final. FFC board members are not eligible to participate in this forecasting contest. Each person may submit only one entry. All contest entries are confidential. For more information, please call Brian Sloboda at (202) 693-5904 or e-mail at sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov. Each individual will receive confirmation of receipt of his/her submission.

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.

COURSES & WORKSHOPS

Designing and Conducting Business Surveys

JUNE 16-17, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Diane Willimack, Gustav Haraldsen and Ger Snijkers

Registration and Payment Due by June 2, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061615

Practical Tools for Nonresponse Bias Studies

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

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

Statistical Analysis with Missing Data

NOVEMBER 5-6, 2015

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

Presented by Roderick Little and Trivellore E. Raghunathan

Registration and Payment Due by October 22, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=110515

Introduction to Survey Sampling

DECEMBER 7-8, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski

Registration and Payment Due by November 23, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=120715

CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNER!

Brent Moulton to Receive 2015 Julius Shiskin Award



Brent Moulton, Associate Director for National Economic Accounts of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), has been selected to receive the 2015 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The award recognizes unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Dr. Moulton is recognized for his leadership in implementing major innovations into the U.S.

national accounts, international standards for national accounts, and expanded integration of U.S. statistical programs. He is also recognized for his work at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in developing innovations that improved the reliability of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Dr. Moulton is the 43rd recipient of the Award; he will be honored at events hosted by the three sponsors of the award: the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association.

At BEA, Dr. Moulton was responsible for the incorporation of innovations into the U.S. national accounts that have kept them up-to-date to the changing U.S. economy. In these and other areas, policymakers, business economists, and academics have applauded Dr. Moulton for providing significantly more accurate and relevant information for monetary policy, tax policy and projections, fiscal policy, and business planning. The innovations incorporated into the accounts included the following:

- Treating research and development (R&D) as an investment rather than as an expense, recognizing its increasingly important contribution to economic growth and productivity. This change added 3% to the official measure of U.S. GDP.
- Expanding BEA's efforts to extend the incorporation of "intangibles" into the national accounts by recognizing artistic originals as capital assets.
- New methods for measuring the implicit services provided by the banking and insurance industries, providing more comprehensive measurement of output for these industries.
- Quality-adjusted price measures for communications equipment and other high-tech equipment to better capture the rapid improvements in their performance and quality.

Dr. Moulton is recognized for his leadership in the developing improved international standards for national accounts. He was one of the initiators of the 2008 update of the System of National Accounts (SNA), the handbook for GDP measurement prepared by the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, and the European Union. His paper published in 2004 in the *Review of Income and Wealth* made the case for the need to update the SNA, pointing to the many recent developments not captured by the 1993 standards, including the increasing importance of knowledge capital, such as R&D, and the recognition of capital services as an

input into production. He played an important role developing the revised standards as a founding member of the Advisory Expert Group, a group of prominent national accountants, who advised the editors of the new SNA on important methodological questions. Dr. Moulton served with other country experts on the Advisory Expert Group and helped persuade the countries and organizations to incorporate controversial yet critically important improvements in economic statistics into the 2008 SNA. Within this Group, Dr. Moulton's success reflected not only his knowledge of the accounts but also his ability to compromise while maintaining high quality standards and international comparability.

Dr. Moulton also contributed to the development of economic statistics programs by his leadership of 2 further integration of BEA programs and programs of other U.S. statistical organizations, thereby enhancing their usefulness to their users. One of the programs that benefited from his leadership was a collaboration with the Federal Reserve Board to promote the integration of the *Financial Accounts of the United States* and thereby bringing more consistency with the SNA to both sets of accounts. This integration provided data users a better link between the real and the financial economy. Another program was collaboration with the BLS that improved the consistency between the BLS productivity statistics and the National Income and Product Accounts and provided data users with better information on the sources of U.S. economic growth. In a similar way, Dr. Moulton worked with the Census Bureau to integrate new data from the Quarterly Services Survey into BEA's estimates of quarterly consumer spending, extending survey data coverage by over 15 percent. As was the case with his contributions to improving the SNA, his ability to make improvements in both BEA programs as well as the programs of other agencies reflects his efforts to be a flexible and cooperative partner.

Dr. Moulton also made major contributions the development of economic statistics during his service at BLS where he developed innovations that improved the reliability of the CPI. As Chief of the Price and Index Number Research Division, he directed research that led to a 1993 article on estimating basic components of the CPI, identified and presented evidence of a bias in the estimation methods then used for the CPI, and proposed an alternative method that was later adopted to alleviate the bias. This was an era when considerable attention was being devoted to potential upward biases in the CPI, which if true, had important fiscal policy implications because many government transfer payment provisions and income tax thresholds were indexed to the CPI. His research contributed to the public discussion surrounding the publication of the report of the Boskin Commission by presenting an even-handed discussion of the strengths and weaknesses in the CPI. The importance of this work is evidenced by the fact that he was invited to write an article entitled "Bias in the Consumer Price Index: What is the Evidence?" that appeared in one of the journals of the American Economic Association, the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, in 1996. In addition Dr. Moulton's research during his time at the BLS also is reflected in various international manuals on price statistics.

Finally, early in his career, Dr. Moulton research on methods for estimating and drawing inferences in models that combine disaggregated and aggregated data led to a series of original articles published in leading academic journals. He remains known in academic circles for identifying "best practices" in estimating standard errors for models estimated using data that are grouped in clusters, a problem which arises in a range of applications.

Dr. Moulton received the BLS Distinguished Service Award in 1997, the Department of Commerce Gold Medals in 2001 and 2007, and the Presidential Rank Award in 2011. He received a M.S. and B.A. in economics at Brigham Young University and a PhD in economics from the University of Chicago.

May 7, 2015

Prepared by:

Robert P. Parker

Chair, Julius Shiskin Award Selection Committee

Parkerrobertp@aol.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Senior Survey Sampling Statistician

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Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 2,000 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

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We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Senior Survey Sampling Statistician

Responsibilities include: developing sample designs (determining stratification and allocation to strata; determine sample size based on differences and power; determine optimal clustering; and select sample); selecting and/or constructing appropriate sample frame; developing and documenting weighting plan which includes non-response adjustment and bench-marking; developing and conducting imputation for item nonresponse and estimating sampling errors using appropriate software; writing specifications for programmers; and preparing reports on sample design, weighting procedures and other methodological issues. Candidates would benefit from knowing SAS, R and other statistical software packages; although candidates are not required to do programming. A PhD degree in survey statistics with five (5) or more years of relevant international survey experience or a Master's degree in survey statistics with ten (10) or more years of international survey experience is required.

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

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