



## WSS NEWS

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# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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Ranjana Kohli, 1100 First Street NE, Floor 12, Washington, DC 20002



# The Washington Statistical Society

*cordially invites you to our annual*

## Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

5:00 – 7:00 PM

### District ChopHouse & Brewery, The Vault

509 7th St NW Washington, DC 20004; [www.districtchophouse.com](http://www.districtchophouse.com)

By Metro: Red, Green, or Yellow Line/Gallery Place Chinatown (use Verizon Center exit and walk less than one block south on 7th St.)

Car parking information: <http://dc.about.com/od/transportation/a/PkgVerizonCtr.htm>

*All WSS members, family, friends, and colleagues are welcome*

#### ***Cocktail Buffet (V: vegetarian) selections from***

Marinated Grilled Chicken Satay, Gourmet Cheese Board (V),  
Grilled Veggie & Chevre Mini Wraps (V), Mini Beef Burgers,  
Spicy Cheese Potato Wedges (V), Miniature Crab Cakes,  
Shrimp Cocktail, Spinach & Artichoke Dip (V), Fresh Fruit Platter

***Free soft drinks***

***One free drink of your choice, then cash bar***

#### Ticket prices

Pre-paid \$20; Door \$25

Full-time student (pre-paid only) \$15

#### **Please help us to plan ahead by pre-registering**

Online credit card payment:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-wss-holiday-party-tickets-29519002130>

Check payment: mail name(s)/check(s)/phone or email contact information by

December 6 to:

Ranjana Kohli, 1100 First Street NE, Floor 12, Washington, DC 20002

## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF WSS

I knew WSS to be an active organization with many dedicated volunteers before becoming president-elect last year. Early now in my year as president of WSS, I continue to be impressed with the level of activity of many long-serving members and with the enthusiasm and effort of new volunteers. WSS is an all-volunteer organization, and accomplishes much because of many WSS members who donate their time. As always, WSS has room for new volunteers.

Program chairs suggest events of interest to WSS members in various areas of focus. There are program chairs in several areas who have arranged seminars this year in Data Collection (Elections), Education, Health and Medicine, Human Rights, and Methodology. Program chairs also can help WSS members learn about opportunities, such as continuing education courses and seminars offered by other organizations, in their areas of focus. Program chairs can raise awareness of statistical events outside of WSS by sending emails to the membership and providing information to the newsletter editor. Right now we have openings for program chairs in three areas: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Economics, and Public Policy. If you are interested in these or other areas or have suggestions for people to contact regarding these roles, please feel free to contact me about the position.

The Quantitative Literacy Committee of WSS includes members who run the area poster competition, the Curtis Jacobs Award Competition, and workshops for local school teachers and judge at science fairs. The group needs a Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator to help recruit and organize WSS members to help with its various efforts. A principle responsibility of the QL Volunteer Coordinator is to create and maintain a WSS volunteer database. Please contact me, Dhuly Chowdhury, or others listed on the board in Quantitative Literacy if interested.

One feature in the newsletter is the Members' Spotlight, which brings you a portrait of sorts of your fellow members. Tom Krenzke and John Finamore have been editors for this feature for a long time, but are stepping down. Wendy Barboza is continuing in this role. We would like a couple of volunteers to join in this effort as Members' Spotlight editors. Editors suggest fellow members to be featured, contact them and encourage them to submit answers to questions, and help edit and compile their responses into an interesting brief bio.

Jonathan Lisic and WSS past-president Chris Moriarity have been maintaining and improving the webpage. One major activity in the near future is preparing for the next WSS election. If you have some experience in web programming or are eager to learn through experience, then please consider volunteering to help with the WSS web page.

Mark Otto is leading the WSS effort to organize and run a mentoring program for members of WSS. Tom Krenzke is stepping down from this effort, so there are one or two openings on the Mentoring Committee. The Mentoring Committee advertises to WSS members, recruits mentors and mentees, matches pairs, tracks and provides guidance to pairs, and organizes a couple of events. Come help in this new and exciting work for our chapter!

The next WSS election will occur in the spring of 2017. Candidates are needed for WSS Officers such as Representative-at-Large, and President-Elect (non-federal employees). If you have an interest in being a candidate in the 2017 WSS election, please contact Past President Chris Moriarity.

Please contact me if you have an interest in filling any of these vacancies.

Thanks very much,

Mike Larsen

## **Welcome to new ASA/WSS members**

The following new ASA/WSS members were identified in the most recent update of the WSS email list in October:

Howard Eric Alpert  
Daniel Boada  
Jonathan Burns  
Matt Campbell  
Sean Goodwin Carver  
Gillian Charter  
Pamela Flattau  
Yian Fu  
Ajish George  
Arash Ghafouri  
Christian Anthony Gregory  
Felicia Renaye Griffin  
Tim Griffith  
Nick Hart  
Michael Holland  
Yongxu Huang  
Neal O. Jeffries  
Niloufar Khorrami  
Mathew Kopp  
William Franz Lamberti  
Jing Lei  
Aiyi Liu  
Haohui Luo  
Delicia C. Mapp  
Rebecca Morrison  
Rebecca R Murphy  
Gene Peters  
Gonzalo Rivero  
Rabab Fouad Saab  
Jirai Wang  
Yanying Wang  
Lauren Withington  
Michelle White  
Linxing Yan

Welcome to WSS!

Mike Larsen, WSS President  
Chris Moriarity, WSS Past President  
Linda Young, WSS President Elect

## **SEMINARS & CONFERENCES**

**Title:** **2016 Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics;  
Presentation on Supplemental Poverty Measures**

**Date/Time:** **December 5, 2016  
10:00-11:30 a.m.**

**Speakers:** Connie Citro (Committee on National Statistics),  
Kathy Short (award recipient; Census Bureau, retired),  
Thesia Garner (award recipient; Bureau of Labor Statistics)

**Chair:** Dave Hubble, Westat

**Sponsors:** WSS, GSS, SSS

**Abstract:** The 2016 recipients of the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics, Kathleen S. Short and Thesia I. Garner, have been recognized for their important and extensive work in developing and refining alternative measures of poverty used to better understand the nature and scope of poverty in America that has now resulted in the annual release of the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The presentation will begin with Connie Citro (Committee on National Statistics) discussing and recognizing the historical context and importance of Dr. Short's and Dr. Garner's work in the development of alternative poverty measures and the SPM within the Federal Statistical System. Dr. Short (Census Bureau, retired) and Dr. Garner (BLS) will discuss their joint work over the past twenty years to define and calculate improved poverty measurements leading to the annual release of the SPM jointly with the official U.S. poverty measure. Current ongoing work, especially on the setting of poverty thresholds, will also be discussed.

**Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 1

**Registration:** **(required)** 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](mailto: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.

**WebEx:**

Video Conferencing

[https://dol.webex.com/mw3000/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=dol&nomenu=true&main\\_url=%2Fmc3000%2Fe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddol%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D505437557%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAAINON93usaAMtZWkipzOpyl6Sz6mSmyDVtVDw5O93QpGd-KPCSmqHZ5IOXLap34DCDp246ZVQ66JNgOs75NefCTO%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dmb9b069ad9202919507872e5140ed1915](https://dol.webex.com/mw3000/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=dol&nomenu=true&main_url=%2Fmc3000%2Fe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddol%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D505437557%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAAINON93usaAMtZWkipzOpyl6Sz6mSmyDVtVDw5O93QpGd-KPCSmqHZ5IOXLap34DCDp246ZVQ66JNgOs75NefCTO%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dmb9b069ad9202919507872e5140ed1915)

Meeting number: 648 918 274

Meeting password: Wss-051216

**For Audio:**

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

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

(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2

**Note:**

Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.

*You are cordially invited to*

# SURVEYPAL ZA

## **JPSM Meet & Greet Reception**

**Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 4:30p.m.**

honoring our special guest

**Katherine K. Wallman**

Chief Statistician

U.S. Office of Management and Budget

**for her years of dedicated service.**



**Marriott Marquis Washington, DC**

901 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001

Direct access from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
via an underground concourse connection.



THE JOINT PROGRAM IN  
SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A Consortium of the  
University of Maryland,  
the University of Michigan,  
and Westat

Join us **immediately after the FCSM Conference** to meet and celebrate our distinguished guest of honor and **the 20+ Reunion of the First and Second Graduating Classes of JPSM.**

Please RSVP for this event to  
**Jody Williams, [jodywill@umd.edu](mailto:jodywill@umd.edu)**



**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC****Title:** Sports Analytics Discussion**Date/Time:** February 16, 2017  
4:00–6:00 p.m.**Speakers:** Kevin Tenenbaum, Baltimore Orioles, Analyst, Baseball Analytics  
Daniel Stern, Baltimore Ravens, Coaching Analytics Assistant**Chair:** Arnold Saunders, George Washington University & WSS Student Representative**Sponsors:** Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Statistics Education Committee, Gonzaga College High School, and WSS Methodology Program**Location:** Theater at Gonzaga College High School - 19 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001. Please call (202) 336-7100 if you have trouble finding the building.

By Metro: Take the Red Line to Union Station. From Union Station, walk north along North Capitol Street for about 4 blocks until you reach Eye (I) Street. Turn left on I Street (just after the football field). The theater will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> building on your right. Enter the Theater from Eye (I) Street and proceed up either staircase to the main Theater hall. A nice map is available at <http://www.gonzaga.org/Document.Doc?id=4538>.

By Car: Free parking is available in the school parking garage, which is accessible after 3 p.m. Information about the parking garage can be found at <http://www.gonzaga.org/parking>. Coming out of the garage, the building in front of you is Dooley Hall. To the right of Dooley Hall is the Theater. Enter the Theater from Eye (I) Street and proceed up either staircase to the main Theater hall.

**RSVP:** To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com) by February 14, 2016.**Abstract:** Michael Lewis' bestseller *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* (and later the movie adaptation starring Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill) brought the world of sports analytics into the public eye. Kevin Tenenbaum and Daniel Stern of the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens discuss the development of how baseball and football teams use statistics and data science to gain an edge on their competition. Plenty

of time will be allotted to questions from the audience. Content will be accessible to audience members of all backgrounds.

**POC email:** Carol Joyce Blumberg, [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com)

**No remote access will be available for this seminar**

## **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 Mike Larsen...

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

George Washington University

Professor of Statistics in Department of Statistics: Teach courses including graduate level survey sampling and introductory statistics for social scientists. Mentor PhD students in Statistics. Also collaborate with researchers in GW's Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

Faculty member at GW's Biostatistics Center: Statistician on the Diabetes Prevention Project Outcomes Study, principal investigator for an individual patient data meta-analysis in the area of maternal/fetal health, and participate in Center activities.

Director of Graduate Studies for GW's Certificate Program in Survey Design & Data Analysis: Interact with faculty, review applications and support students along the course of their degree, represent the program in the University, and promote the program.

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

The DC area has a lot of opportunities both professionally and otherwise. In my career I have had many interactions with Census and NCHS. Being in the area makes participation in NIH and NSF review panels, National Academy of Science panel and committees, FCSM conferences, and continuing involvement with government agencies much more feasible than it would be otherwise. The Department of Statistics at GW has a long history. The Biostatistics Center leads a number of important, high-quality, multi-million dollar projects. My split between the Department of Statistics and the Biostatistics Center has significantly widened my experiences in the field. In terms of extracurricular activities, there are not many places to live where you can drive relatively short distances to mountains, beaches, and diverse cultural and historical activities. Area schools are good, too.

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

To keep informed about events in the DC area, learn about opportunities, and to socialize with fellow statisticians.

#### 4. Where was your first job?

In junior high and high school I worked for a company in Lincoln, Nebraska, called Selection Research Inc (SRI). SRI did market research surveys and personnel selection. Back in those days one updated monthly reports from computer tabulations of survey results about television viewing preferences, opinions of local TV news reports, and hospital customer satisfaction using pen and pencil on paper. Telephone interviewing involved dialing RDD

phone numbers by hand and recording answers on paper. I also mowed the grass a couple of summers. SRI purchased the Gallup Organization, Inc., and eventually moved its world headquarters to Washington, D.C.

After my first year in graduate school at Harvard my advisor Don Rubin sent me to D.C. to work for Bill Winkler on his record linkage staff. The goal of developing statistical models and methods to improve large-scale research studies aimed at answering important questions still motivates me today. One of my current PhD students, a Census Bureau employee, will defend his dissertation this spring on statistical models for improved small area estimation in a survey of governments. Another PhD student is making progress on models of Current Population Survey data. The early research experience certainly attracted me to a career interacting with government statistics, and I am very grateful for the opportunity.

#### 5. Why did you join the statistics profession?

I always had an interest and ability in mathematics, but also in economics, politics, and international relations. In statistics, as my mother encouraged me, I could go with my strengths. It is important to work in support of social justice and better lives for people. Statistics gives many opportunities that are challenging and interesting professionally to do so.

#### 6. What is the most interesting statistical project you have worked on recently?

I find it most interesting that I have been involved in diverse, stimulating, and challenging projects. Some of these involve large data collection: preparing for Census 2020, measuring fraud in government anti-poverty programs, planning a 10-year extension of a landmark study on preventative treatment for type II diabetes, and estimating underpayments to Native American tribal organizations. Others involve small data sets, such as measuring language development in groups of young children with Cochlear ear implants and estimating the impact of an in-school dental treatment program in rural Jamaica. Statistics can give you a lot of opportunities. They all need special attention from a statistician.

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

The answer to the question about with whom from history would you like to have dinner opens all sorts of possibilities. Could I speak to my wife when we were ten years younger than when we first met? Interviewing religious figures and pivotal world leaders might be too much to handle. I could focus on some personal genealogical issues. Why did my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandparents Rasmus and Agnes Larsen leave Denmark for America? Why did my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandparents David William Oyster and Eliza Ann Thompson move to Paola, Kansas, from Washington, D.C., where the family had a thriving market and dairy business? Did my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather John Morgan from Wales really jump ship from the Royal Navy before serving in the U.S. Calvary in the Rocky Mountains in the 1800s? Did ancestors leave Germany for America to avoid religious persecution? I seem to have more than three questions.

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

I read the *Hunger Game* series recently. My oldest daughter can read books like this now and I wanted to check its content. I've been reading parts of the *Bible* in the last month. Next I plan to read a book on Frank Zappa. Actually, my son is 18-months-old, so lately I've read several books by Dr. Seuss, *First 100 Animals* and *First 100 Machines*, *Little Gorilla*, *Goodnight Gorilla*, *Goodnight Moon*, and *Moon Dance*, a story about dolphins, many times. I read the *Washington Post* daily and highly recommend *Chance* magazine.

## **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, Wendy Barboza (Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## STUDENT CORNER

### 2017 JSM Student Travel Award Application

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) is offering a Student Travel Award for a local area student in a degree program (bachelors, masters, or doctoral) in the areas of statistics, survey methodology, or allied survey research disciplines. Support is offered for students to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), to be held in Baltimore, Maryland (USA) July 29 – August 3, 2017.

Applications must contain a letter of support either by a current member of the WSS or a faculty advisor (see below). Plans to present a paper or poster at JSM 2017 will entitle the applicant to preferential review of their submission.

One award will be granted to a student attending a school local to the DC, MD or VA area. The award will cover conference hotel and travel expenses up to \$800, early-bird student conference registration, and a one-year student membership to the WSS.

In addition to attending the JSM sessions, the winner is expected to attend the Survey Research Methods Section Business Meeting in order to be recognized by the WSS. The winner is also expected to prepare an essay on his/her experience at the JSM to be published in the WSS Fall Newsletter.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Full time student [ ] Part-time [ ]  
 Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
 University \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you planning to present a paper or poster at JSM this year? YES NO

If yes, paper or poster title? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously attended any professional meeting on statistics, survey research, or a related discipline?

If YES, please describe (meeting, location, dates):

YES NO

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

As a current WSS member and/or faculty advisor, I endorse this student's request:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION CHECKLIST – PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:

- Copy of most recent transcript or advising report from your university.
- Double-spaced essay, no more than two pages, describing your interest in statistics/survey research methods and your interest in attending JSM.
- Letter of support from a current WSS member or faculty advisor.

Application materials should be sent to Erin Tanenbaum ([Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org](mailto:Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org)) by email with the subject “WSS Student Travel Award”.

Phone: (301)-634-9405.

Applications must be received by **November 31, 2016.**



## **ASA SRMS Seeking Applicants for 2017 JSM Student Travel Award**

The Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) of the American Statistical Association offers a Student Travel Award for students in any terminal degree program (bachelors, masters, or doctoral) in the area of statistics, survey methodology, or allied survey research disciplines. Support is offered for students to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland from July 29 to August 3, 2017.

Preference is given to students presenting a paper or poster at the conference. In addition, applications must be supported by a current member of the SRMS. Approximately 6 awards of up to \$800 each are for conference expenses. Winners are expected to attend JSM sessions and the SRMS Business meeting to be recognized by our section. Note, previous SRMS student travel award winners and JSM 2017 student paper competition winners are not eligible for this award.

Application forms are available at [http://ww2.amstat.org/sections/srms/travelapp\\_2017.pdf](http://ww2.amstat.org/sections/srms/travelapp_2017.pdf) (underscore before "2017"). Deadline for applications is **December 15, 2016**. If you have any questions, please contact Michael P. Cohen at [mpcohen@juno.com](mailto:mpcohen@juno.com).

~ By Michael P. Cohen, ASA SRMS Treasurer

## WORKSHOPS & SHORT COURSES

### JPSM Short Courses

#### **Introduction to Survey Sampling**

**DECEMBER 6-7, 2016**

**Summit, Washington, DC**

Presented by Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski

**Reduced Rate Deadline September 30, 2016**

**Payment and Registration Due November 22, 2016**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=120616](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=120616)

#### **Writing Questions for Survey**

**JANUARY 30-31, 2017**

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

Presented by Nora Cate Schaeffer

**Payment and Registration Due January 16, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=013017](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=013017)

#### **Issues in Data Science: Unpacking 'Big Data'**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2017 (1-Day Course)**

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

Presented by Cliff Lampe

**Payment and Registration Due January 24, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=020717](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=020717)

#### **Practical Tools for Designing and Weighting Survey Samples**

**FEBRUARY 21-22, 2017**

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

Presented by Richard L. Valliant and Jill A. Dever

**Payment and Registration Due February 7, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=022117](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=022117)

#### **Leveraging New Technologies for Understanding Attitudes and Behaviors**

**MARCH 8-9, 2017**

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

Presented by Michael W. Link

**Payment and Registration Due February 22, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=030817](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=030817)

**Introduction to the Federal Statistical System**

**MARCH 29, 2017 (1-Day Course)**

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

Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann

**Payment and Registration Due March 15, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=032917](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=032917)

**Nonprobability Survey Samples**

**APRIL 14, 2017 (1-Day Course)**

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

Presented by Courtney Kennedy

**Payment and Registration Due March 31, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=041417](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=041417)

**Introduction to Survey Estimation**

**MAY 1-2, 2017**

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

Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee

**Payment and Registration Due April 17, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=050117](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=050117)

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### 2017 ASA/NSF/BLS Fellowship Program

Are you interested in expanding your research to new and interesting domains? Are you doing research that could benefit the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)? If so, consider applying for our Research Fellow Program!

The program's main objective is to facilitate collaboration between academic scholars and government researchers in fields such as statistics, mathematics, economics, survey methodology, behavioral science, and other related fields. Research Fellows have unique opportunities to expand their work to address some of the difficult methodological problems and analytic challenges BLS faces. Fellows are funded to conduct research at the BLS headquarters in Washington, DC, use BLS data and facilities, and work closely with BLS staff.

There is more information available on our website at [http://www.bls.gov/osmr/asa\\_nsf\\_bls\\_fellowship\\_info.htm](http://www.bls.gov/osmr/asa_nsf_bls_fellowship_info.htm) or in our brochure at <http://www.amstat.org/careers/pdfs/ASANSFBLSFellowshipProgram.pdf>. **Proposals are due January 2, 2017 with final decisions anticipated around April 15, 2017.**

Fellowship applicants should have a recognized research record and considerable expertise in their area of proposed research. Applicants must submit a detailed research proposal, which will be evaluated on the applicability of the research to BLS programs, the value of the proposed research to science, and the quality of the applicant's research record. Applicants do not need to be U.S. Citizens, but they must be employed by a U.S. institution of higher learning or a non-profit institution (IRS code 501(c)(3) entity) and are expected to retain their position for the duration of the fellowship. U.S. Government employees are not eligible.

We encourage interested researchers to contact us before submitting a proposal, so we can provide assistance in tailoring the proposed topic to best utilize your skills and interests in addressing BLS issues.

The BLS coordinates our Research Fellow Program in cooperation with the American Statistical Association (<http://www.amstat.org/>) (ASA), under a grant from the National Science Foundation (<http://www.nsf.gov/>) (NSF).

Please contact Jeffrey Gonzalez ([Gonzalez.Jeffrey@bls.gov](mailto:Gonzalez.Jeffrey@bls.gov)) if you have any questions and please feel free to share this announcement with any colleagues who may have interest in the Fellowship Program.

# GET INVOLVED!

## Data Challenge 2017

Three ASA sections (Computing, Government, and Graphics) are proud to sponsor the Data Challenge 2017 to take place at the JSM 2017 meetings. The contest is open to anyone who is interested in participating, including college students and professionals from the private or public sector. This contest challenges participants to analyze a government dataset using statistical and visualization tools and methods. There will be two award categories – Professional (one level) and Student (three levels). Award amounts will be announced later.

Contestants will present their results in a speed poster session at the JSM and must submit their abstracts to the JSM online system in the usual manner. Presenters are responsible for their own JSM registration and travel costs, and any other costs associated with JSM attendance. Group submissions are acceptable. To enter, contestants must do the following by **February 1, 2017**.

- Submit abstract for Speed Poster session to the JSM 2017 website (<http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2017/index.cfm>). Specify the Government Statistics Section (GSS) as the main sponsor. Abstraction submission starts December 1, 2016.
- Forward the JSM abstract to Wendy Martinez ([martinez.wendy@bls.gov](mailto:martinez.wendy@bls.gov)).

The dataset for the GSS Data Challenge 2017 will be the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE). Public Use data files and documentation (file structure, data dictionary, sample code, etc.), are available here: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/pumd.htm>. Contestants must use some portion of the CE data and can also combine other data sources in the analysis.

Standard tables, showing expenditures and related information for various demographic groups, are available here: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/tables.htm>. An experimental table showing extremely detailed average annual expenditures and other information for all consumer units (similar to a household or family) in the U.S. is available here: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/2014/research/allcuprepub.pdf>. For more information, see the CE homepage (<http://www.bls.gov/cex/>).

Examples of research using the CE data are also available.

- Monthly Labor Review articles: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxart.htm>
- "Beyond the Numbers" series: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxwebarticles.htm>
- "Spotlight on Statistics" and other series: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxspotlight.htm>; <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxissus.htm>.



# ANNUAL POSTER COMPETITION FOR K-12 STUDENTS



Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: **April 1, 2017.**

## Call for Entries

The **American Statistical Association** (ASA) has an annual poster competition for students in Grades K-12, with separate winners in Grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The aim is to increase statistical awareness and understanding via a statistical poster containing two or more related graphics that summarize a set of data, look at the data from different points of view, and answer specific questions about the data in a coherent manner.

The **Washington Statistical Society** (WSS), a chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA), is awarding prizes for the competition in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Winners of this local competition will then be entered into the national competition.

## Objectives

Enhance students' understanding of:

- ▶ the use of statistics in the real world
- ▶ how statistics are used to analyze information
- ▶ the importance of graphical displays
- ▶ how to prepare a coherent poster presentation

## Entry Rules & Guidelines

This local competition follows the rules and evaluation process for the national competition at:

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

The deadline for submission of entries is **April 1** of each year. Note: Although the forms and posters are sent to the ASA national office, they will be judged separately from the posters from other regions.

Further questions can be directed to Will Cecere at (301) 294-4477 or [williamcecere@westat.com](mailto:williamcecere@westat.com).

## Eligibility

- ▶ Grades K-12
- ▶ Residence in the Washington DC metropolitan area

## Evaluation

- ▶ Overall impact – Eye-catching appeal, visual attractiveness, and ability to draw the viewer to investigate the individual graphs
- ▶ Clarity – Demonstration of important relationships and patterns in a clear and coherent manner
- ▶ Appropriateness – Appropriate graphics for the data
- ▶ Creativity!

## Prizes & Awards

**WSS Poster Competition winners will be awarded as follows:**

### INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

<b>1st Prize:</b>	\$100
<b>2nd Prize &amp; 3rd Prize:</b>	\$50

### TEAM ENTRIES

**1st Prize:** \$50 for each team member, up to a maximum of \$200.

**2nd Prize & 3rd Prize:** \$25 for each team member, up to a maximum of \$100

Winners and their teachers/academic supervisors will also be invited to attend the annual WSS awards dinner. For team entries, a maximum of four students per entry will be provided with free meals, although additional students may attend the dinner at their own cost.

## Prizes & Awards cont'd.

Winners will also have their submissions sent to the national ASA poster competition.

National winners will receive additional prizes as described at:

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

## Useful Resources about What Makes a Successful Poster

▶ **Webinar at:**

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

▶ **Observations from winners of the 2013 competition at:**

[http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/EDU-2013Posters\\_Observations.pdf](http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/EDU-2013Posters_Observations.pdf)

▶ **Winning posters from recent competitions at:**

<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2016/08/01/posterwinners-aug16/>

The WSS and ASA also have competitions for written papers/projects with significant statistical content/analyses. Details for those competitions are at:

▶ **WSS Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize:**  
<http://washingtonstatisticalsociety.org/awards/#jacobs>

▶ **ASA:**

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Project-Competition-for-Grades-7-12.aspx>



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## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the **December, 2016** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **25<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. Announcements with track changes will not be accepted.

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