

April 2010 • Issue #394

AMSTATNEWS

The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association • <http://magazine.amstat.org/>

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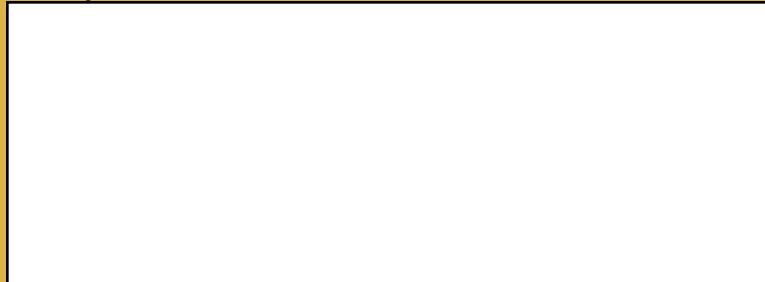
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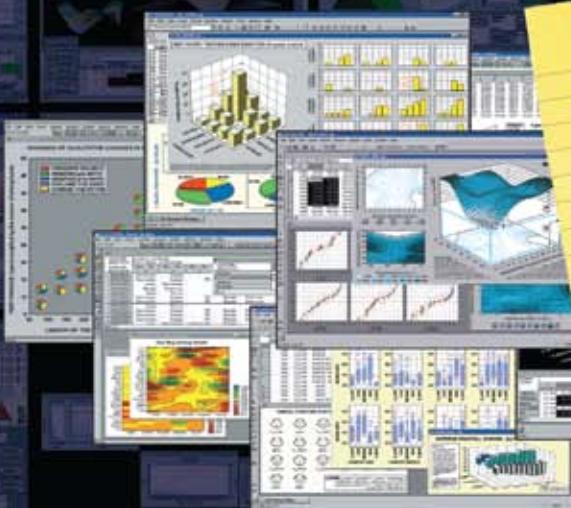
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Amstat News welcomes news items and letters from readers on matters of interest to the association and the profession. Address correspondence to Managing Editor, *Amstat News*, American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria VA 22314-1943 USA, or email amstat@amstat.org. Items must be received by the first day of the preceding month to ensure appearance in the next issue (for example, June 1 for the July issue). Material can be sent as a Microsoft Word document, PDF, or within an email. Articles will be edited for space. Accompanying artwork will be accepted in graphics file formats only (.jpg, etc.), minimum 300 dpi. No material in WordPerfect will be accepted.

Amstat News (ISSN 0163-9617) is published monthly by the American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria VA 22314-1943 USA. **Periodicals postage paid** at Alexandria, Virginia, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Amstat News*, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria VA 22314-1943 USA. Send Canadian address changes to Station A, P.O. Box 54, Windsor ON N9A 6J5; returnsL@imex.pb.com. Annual subscriptions are \$50 per year for nonmembers. *Amstat News* is the member publication of the ASA. For annual membership rates, see www.amstat.org/join or contact ASA Member Services at (888) 231-3473.

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To be a world leader in promoting statistical practice, applications, and research; publishing statistical journals; improving statistical education; and advancing the statistics profession

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Support excellence in statistical practice, research, journals, and meetings. Work for the improvement of statistical education at all levels. Promote the proper application of statistics. Anticipate and meet the needs of our members. Use our discipline to enhance human welfare. Seek opportunities to advance the statistics profession.

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This column highlights research activities that may be of interest to ASA members. These brief articles include information about new research solicitations and the federal budget for statistics. Comments or suggestions for future articles may be sent to ASA Research and Graduate Education Manager Keith Crank at keith@amstat.org.

Contributing Editor

Keith Crank has a BS in mathematics education and an MS in mathematics from Michigan State University and a PhD in statistics from Purdue University. Prior to joining the ASA, he was a program officer at the National Science Foundation, primarily in the probability program.



Crank

Science Policy News

Science and Statistical Agencies Fare Well in 2011 Budget Request

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This column is written to inform ASA members about what the ASA is doing to promote the inclusion of statistics in policymaking and the funding of statistics research. To suggest science policy topics for the ASA to address, contact ASA Director of Science Policy Steve Pierson at pierson@amstat.org.



Pierson

Contributing Editor

Pierson earned his PhD in physics from the University of Minnesota. He spent eight years in the physics department of Worcester Polytechnic Institute and later became head of government relations at the American Physical Society.

Master's Notebook

Statistical Communicators Anonymous

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This column is written for statisticians with master's degrees and highlights areas of employment that will benefit statisticians at the master's level. Comments and suggestions should be sent to ASA Research and Graduate Education Manager Keith Crank at keith@amstat.org.

Contributing Editor

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Tanenbaum

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Recognizing the ASA's Longtime Members

The American Statistical Association would like to thank its longtime members by continuing its tradition of honoring those members who joined the association 35 years ago or more. This year, we recognize the following members for their distinguished and faithful membership.

If you are a longtime member and will be attending the 2010 JSM in Vancouver, British Columbia, please join us for a reception in your honor. If your name is not below and you believe it should be included, please contact Jana Sabol at jana@amstat.org to correct your record.

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35–39 Years

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Bovas Abraham	Patricia C. Becker	Richard M. Bittman	Lawrence S. Cahoon	Alan P. Colonna	Thomas F. Devlin
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Sharon Anderson	Roger L. Berger	James T. Bonnen	David D. Chapman	Suzanne L. Cross	Joseph W. Duncan
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Ronn Andrusco	James S. Bergum	Marie V. Bousfield	William G. Cumberland		
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Lawrence Annable	Ernst R. Berndt	Ann Cohen Brandwein	Yogendra P. Chaubey	Robert D. Curley	Keith R. Eberhardt
W. Tad Archambault	David J. Bernklau	Larry J. Brant	Robert D. Chew	Lester R. Curtin	L. Marlin Eby
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			David L. Turner		

Be a Proud Statistician

As statisticians, we make decisions based on data. Of course, that implies we do have to collect good data. This is the year of the Census 2010: Please make sure that you complete your census form. Also, spread the word on the importance of completing the census form in your neighborhood and with your Facebook friends.

Next, an important reminder to anyone who cares about the future direction of the ASA: If you have not voted in the ASA elections yet, please take the time to cast your vote before May 17, 2010. Show your support to our excellent volunteers who want to ensure that the ASA continues to thrive. To quote Barry Nussbaum, who wrote to me after my March column, "As a profession, we strive to reduce nonresponse in everything we do, yet it appears we don't even vote in our own society's elections. I find that very disappointing, to say the least." Help us achieve a record voter turnout this year. Also, please help ASA collect your opinions as it sends out occasional surveys and then makes decisions based on data. What a novel idea!

Let me wish you all a very happy Ugadi (Telugu New Year, March 16, 2010). This is the first day of a new year according to the South Indian Lunar Calendar, and it falls typically in March–April of the Gregorian calendar. We start the day eating Ugadi pacchadi, a unique dish consisting of brown sugar, raw mango, tamarind, neem flowers, salt, and hot green chili peppers. This dish symbolizes that life is a mixture of different experiences—sadness, happiness, anger, fear, disgust, and surprise—which should be accepted together. As a kid, I used to say "Yuck! Give me my dessert instead." As I get to my midlife, I know better now. I look forward to a Happy New Year and prepare myself for whatever the future brings. But I still hope it includes a pecan pie!

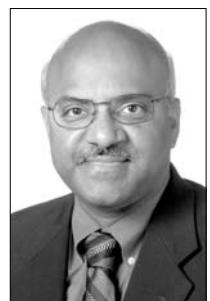
Recently, I attended a conference organized by the National Academy of Engineering in Raleigh,

North Carolina. The theme of the conference was "Grand Challenges for Engineering." These include the following: (1) make solar energy economical; (2) provide energy from fusion; (3) develop carbon sequestration methods; (4) manage the nitrogen cycle; (5) provide access to clean water; (6) restore and improve urban infrastructure; (7) advance health informatics; (8) engineer better medicines; (9) reverse-engineer the brain; (10) prevent nuclear terror; (11) secure cyberspace; (12) enhance virtual reality; (13) advance personalized learning; and (14) engineer the tools of scientific discovery. One message that was loud and clear from the conference was that engineers are here to solve global problems and find innovative solutions to make the world a better place for future generations. Most scientists and politicians are focusing their energies on sustainability, the environment, and health issues—rightfully so!

What are the important challenges in our profession? Think, think, think.

Energy, the environment, and health care are certainly important research topics for statisticians as well as priority research areas at many universities, and a number of ASA members are making significant contributions. In climate change studies, our members have been contributing to IPCC reports, to studies by the National Academies, to congressional testimony, and to policy development. Statisticians are working worldwide and with other disciplines to understand climate change and to develop sustainable solutions to provide a better environment for future generations. Developing a climate science workforce that is "skilled, educated, and climate-savvy" is a priority at some of our funding agencies, and I anticipate more of our members contributing to climate change education.

Statisticians, biostatisticians, and bioinformaticians are working in drug discovery, gene therapy, and health-informatics to provide better health care for



Sastry Pantula

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everyone in the future. This month, some members are testifying on Capitol Hill on the health impacts of climate change. ASA members from all three sectors are engaged in solving such important challenges.

Climate modeling, drug discovery, genomics, and health informatics all deal with large data sets containing many variables. A very important area where statisticians are taking the lead is in solving problems related to such large data sets. "Data deluge," "data tsunami," "big data," and "massive data" are some of the names used to characterize the astronomical amount of data that are being collected daily. The February 25, 2010, *Economist* magazine ran a special report on managing information. In the article titled "The data deluge," it predicts that we generate about 1,200 exabytes (billion gigabytes) of data this year alone. Data warehousing, retrieving, and mining important information out of the large data sets pose many challenges for the future.

Data from multiple sources are common as well. However, we all know that more data does not necessarily imply better information. Extracting valuable information (gold) from the mud of data requires statistical, computational, and analytical skills. To quote from the article titled "Data, data everywhere" in the same issue of the *Economist*, "A new kind of professional has emerged, the data scientist, who combines the skills of software programmer, statistician, and storyteller/artist to extract the nuggets of gold hidden under mountains of data."

Are we training newer statisticians with appropriate analytical, computational, and communication skills as well as new measurement theory and applications? At the current rate of training, there will be a shortage of graduates with such skills in the near future. Federal agencies like the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and Department of Defense are investing in such training through workforce development and research grants. Many successful corporations in private industry like SAS and IBM are also investing in such training. With such partnerships among the three sectors of the ASA—academia, industry, and government—I am very optimistic that statisticians will continue to contribute in the important arena of analytics and computational training.

As a BASF commercial says, "We may not build bridges, but we make them safer." I believe that every good innovation has a statistician behind it. Many of you are advancing the science behind the scenes. We don't have to be a lurking variable. Be a proud statistician and brag about our contributions, whether in agriculture, energy, environment, health, and even wealth. Cheers!

Sashi G. Pantula

Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM) Statistics Workshop for Mathematics and Science Teachers

(www.amstat.org/education/mwm)

Sponsored by the American Statistical Association (ASA)
2010 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM)*



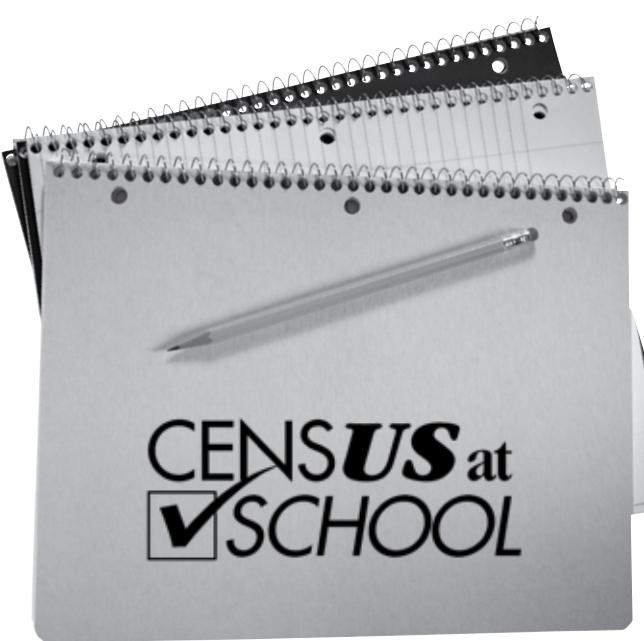
Based on the *Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction of Statistics Education (GAISE)* A Pre-K–12 Curriculum Framework (www.amstat.org/education/gaise)

- Dates:** Wednesday, August 4, 2010, 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., with JSM activities Thursday, August 5, 2010
- Place:** Vancouver Convention Centre, located at 1055 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC, V6C 0C3, Canada, and neighboring hotels (workshop meeting room location to be announced)
- Audience:** Middle and High School Mathematics and Science Teachers. Multiple mathematics/science teachers from the same school are especially encouraged to attend.
- Objectives:** Enhance understanding and teaching of statistics within the mathematics/science curriculum through conceptual understanding, active learning, real-world data applications, and appropriate technology
- Content:** Teachers will explore problems that require them to formulate questions, collect, organize, analyze, and draw conclusions from data and apply basic concepts of probability. The MWM program will include examining what students can be expected to do at the most basic level of understanding and what can be expected of them as their skills develop and their experience broadens. Content is consistent with *GAISE* recommendations, *NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*, and Canadian standards.
- Presenters:** *GAISE Report* authors and prominent statistics educators
- Format:** Wednesday: MWM workshop sessions and pass to the JSM Exhibit Hall
Thursday: Activities at JSM (statistics education sessions)
Activity-based sessions, including lesson plan development
- Provided:** Refreshments on Wednesday, August 4
Complimentary pass to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings on Thursday, August 5
Lodging reimbursement (up to a specified amount) for U.S. teachers from outside the Vancouver area
Handouts
Certificate of participation from the ASA certifying professional development hours
Optional graduate credit available
- Cost:** The course fee for the full day is \$35. Please note: Course attendees do not have to register for the Joint Statistical Meetings to participate in this workshop.
- Follow up:** Follow-up activities and webinars (www.amstat.org/education/k12webinars)
Network with local teachers to organize learning communities
- Registration:** Online registration available at www.amstat.org/education/mwm. Space is limited. If interested in attending, please register as soon as possible.
- Contact:** Rebecca Nichols, rebecca@amstat.org; (703) 684-1221, Ext. 1877

*The Joint Statistical Meetings are the largest annual gathering of statisticians, where thousands from around the world meet to share advances in statistical knowledge. The JSM activities include statistics education sessions, posters sessions, and the exhibit hall.

Real Data = Real Fun in Census at School Program

The American Statistical Association and Population Association of America are bringing the Census at School program to the United States beginning this summer. This international program began in the United Kingdom in 2000 to promote statistical literacy in schoolchildren by using real data. The program is now fully operative in the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Ireland, and Japan. With the decennial census being conducted this year, the U.S. Census at School program will build awareness as students learn how it provides essential information for planning education, health, transportation, and many other services.



How It Works

Under the direction of their teachers, students in grades 4–12 anonymously complete an online questionnaire, thus submitting the data to a national database. The questions ask about such things as the length of their right foot, height, favorite subject in school, and how long it takes them to get to school. Thirteen questions are common to every country participating in Census at School, but each country adds its own questions specific to the interests of its children. Periodically the national data from the 13 common questions goes to an international database maintained in the UK.

To teach measurement, data analysis, and statistics, teachers in all participating countries not only can extract the Census at School data submitted by their own students but also obtain a random sample of data from other students—either students from their own country or from all participating countries. Students can engage in statistical problemsolving by formulating questions of interest that can be answered with the data, collecting and selecting the appropriate data, analyzing the data, and making appropriate conclusions in context. The statistical problemsolving process across different levels is described in the *Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE) Report: A Pre-K–12 Curriculum Framework*, at www.amstat.org/education/gaise.

The Origin of the U.S. Census at School

The genesis for the idea of a U.S. Census at School program began at a workshop at UCLA in 2008 organized by Juana Sanchez. At this workshop, participants developed an understanding of each country's program and experiences in creating, promoting, and maintaining Census at School.



A group of middle- and high-school teachers from Washington, DC, participated in the Census at School pilot program. The teachers met for a series of daylong training sessions on implementing the program in their classroom and received instruction in data analysis and statistics. ASA staff will observe the teachers presenting the material in their classrooms and assist where needed.

In 2009 a membership initiative was submitted to the ASA Board of Directors to develop a Census at School pilot project for the United States. The ASA's Committee on International Relations in Statistics submitted the initiative, with strong backing from ASA members Cynthia Clark and Katherine Wallman. The ASA Board of Directors enthusiastically decided to fund it. The Population Association of American gave additional funding; PAA is partnering with ASA on the project through its Committee on Population Statistics, chaired by Linda Gage.

This winter, a group of middle- and high-school teachers from Washington, DC, participated in the pilot program. The teachers met for a series of full-day training sessions on Saturdays at the ASA office. There, ASA Director of Education Martha Aliaga and K–16 Education Manager Rebecca Nichols taught the teachers how to implement the Census at School program in their classroom and gave them instruction in data analysis and statistics. ASA staff will observe the teachers presenting the material to their children in the classroom and assist where needed.

The material developed from the pilot project will be available when the ASA launches Census at School nationally in early summer. The web site will include an online questionnaire unique to the United States, a random data sampler to extract data

from questionnaires submitted by students from across the country, and a link to the international data sampler.

The site will also house tools for teachers to use with Census at School in their classroom. One such tool is a webinar presented by William Finzer, leader of the Fathom Dynamic Data Software development team, titled "Exploring Census at School Data from Around the World with Fathom." This webinar is available at www.amstat.org/education/k12webinars. Many lesson plans and other resources are already available on the Census at School web sites of each participating country, linked from the international Census at School site, www.censusatschool.com.

Getting Involved

The ASA is looking for champions to expand the Census at School program when it goes national. Teachers and users and producers of statistics at all levels are encouraged to get involved, both to promote the good practice of statistics in schools and to encourage more students to eventually join the statistics profession. This is a wonderful opportunity for ASA chapters to perform outreach in their communities. For more information on how you can get involved, email Martha Aliaga at martha@amstat.org. ■

StatFest 2009 Meets in the Field of Dreams

Kathryn Chaloner, Kristin Gilchrist, and Philip Kutzko, University of Iowa, and Nagambal Shah, Spelman College

The ASA's StatFest 2009 was held in conjunction with the third annual Field of Dreams Conference of the National Alliance for Doctoral Studies in the Mathematical Sciences (the Alliance) in Iowa City, Iowa, September 25–27. Eighty-eight students of diverse backgrounds from colleges and universities outside of Iowa came to the one-and-a-half day conference, which combined the StatFest mission with the closely related Alliance mission.

StatFest is a conference (typically one day) aimed at encouraging students from underrepresented groups to consider careers in the statistical sciences. The Alliance is a community of faculty in mathematics, statistics, and educational testing and measurement who work together with a mission "to ensure that any underrepresented student who wishes to pursue a doctoral degree in the math sciences is given the tools, nurturing, and encouragement needed to ensure that he or she will be prepared for a PhD program."

On the first day of the conference, the students were introduced to the idea of attending

graduate school. Financial opportunities were described, such as support through fellowships and teaching or research assistantships. The second day of the conference was devoted to careers and followed a typical StatFest agenda, with panels on careers in each of academia, government, and industry.

One of the main goals of the Alliance conference was to familiarize students with the opportunities and resources available to them in the mathematical sciences and to provide a support network of mentors to help guide and empower them to reach their goals. For many of the students, navigating through the system of selecting and applying to graduate school was uncharted territory, so the conference served to give them the tools and inspiration to move through this process with ease and confidence.

The first day opened with a panel of successful PhD statisticians and mathematicians from underrepresented groups. Academic, social, and emotional issues were among the issues the panelists discussed, and the students discussed them in subsequent lively exchanges. A lunchtime presentation gave the history of educational measurement and testing in Iowa City (which is home to several educational testing corporations and the germinator of other testing programs). The afternoon was devoted to sessions on how to select a graduate program and what to expect when you are in a program. It was followed by a recruiting fair. Representatives from universities from around the United States, as well as from government agencies and industry, answered questions and talked to students individually, providing information and application forms for summer internships, summer research experiences, graduate school, and careers.

The keynote speaker at the banquet Saturday evening was Ivelisse Aviles, then a statistician at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and now at the Government Accounting Office in Washington, DC. Her talk, titled "Can I compete?" kept the students in rapt attention as she described, with extraordinary humor and insight, some of the challenges she faced in achieving her dreams and overcoming obstacles. Aviles's experience as a legally blind, Spanish-speaking Puerto Rican was compelling and resonated with those in attendance.



Students Jamie Encarnacion (Kean University and Rutgers University, New Jersey, left) and Aysa Jones (Spelman College, Georgia), studying conference material carefully

Students spent the second day hearing about different careers in statistics, educational testing and measurement, and mathematics. For example, Brian Millen talked about the pharmaceutical industry, Shaowei Yang talked about careers as an actuary, and Bob Rodriguez talked about careers at SAS Institute Inc. The closing session on careers in testing and measurement generated a lively and informative discussion about racial and ethnic biases in standardized testing.

Among the 88 students attending, 31 were African-American, 30 were Hispanic-American (including 13 Puerto Ricans), and two were Native American. Sixteen of the students were McNair scholars. (Most McNair scholars are both from low-income families and are the first generation in their family to go to college.) Four reported having a disability. Typically, first-generation college students are not familiar with disciplines such as biostatistics, which is a graduate discipline, and also may not be aware that mathematics majors are well qualified to do graduate study in statistics, biostatistics, educational testing and measurement, and other quantitative areas.

The Alliance began with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Division of Mathematical Sciences, with Philip Kutzko (professor of mathematics at the University of Iowa) as principal investigator. Since its original inception as a collaboration between the three Iowa Regents universities and four “historically black colleges and universities” (HBCUs), the Alliance has grown into a force for inclusion and diversity in the mathematical sciences. The Alliance is a community of mathematical science faculty members who have made a commitment to mentor students from underrepresented groups. It includes mentors from institutions serving large numbers of Hispanic students as well as HBCUs, and from colleges without graduate programs in the mathematical sciences. These mentors work together with graduate mentors at research universities to facilitate student success in graduate school.

Twenty-eight non-Iowa Alliance undergraduate mentors, 14 non-Iowa Alliance graduate mentors, and six PhD mathematical scientists from industry and government attended the conference. On Sunday morning the Alliance mentors met separately from the students to network and to move the Alliance mission forward. Some former Alliance undergraduate scholars, now in graduate school in Iowa and elsewhere, also attended the conference to meet with their undergraduate mentors as well as with students from their former colleges and universities. Multiple faculty mentors from Iowa Regents Institutions, in mathematical sciences and in other quantitative areas, also attended.



Ivelisse Aviles demonstrates the use of a telescopic lens to see the blackboard in class.



From left to right, panelists Tamekia Jones (assistant professor of biostatistics at the University of Florida), Kyndra Middleton (assistant professor of human development and psychoeducational studies at Howard University), Louis Beaugris (assistant professor of mathematics at Kean University), and Juan Ariel Ortiz-Navarro (assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Puerto Rico – Mayaguez)



Mentors from the National Alliance for Doctoral Studies in the Mathematical Sciences

Statistics is well represented in the Alliance. Founding graduate departments include the Iowa State University Department of Statistics and the University of Iowa Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science. Graduate departments now include biostatistics at both the University of Iowa and the University of Alabama in Birmingham and the statistics department at North Carolina State University, as well as other departments of mathematics with tracks in statistics. Alliance graduate departments have a record of mentoring underrepresented students in doctoral programs in the mathematical sciences, and at least 10% of the faculty in an Alliance graduate department must commit to being an Alliance mentor. To continue the support network created by the conference, these graduate mentors listed on the Alliance web site are now available to mentor any Alliance scholar through the Mentor Match program.

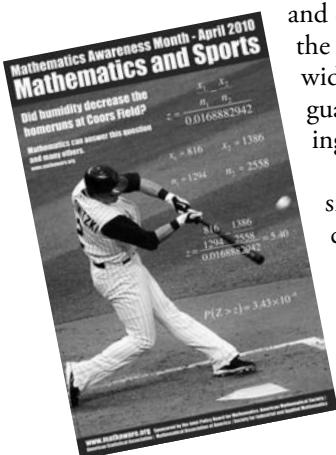
Evaluations were very positive. In response to the open-ended question "What are the two or three most important things you gained from the conference?" the responses included:

- "I have gained a better look at what is the graduate experience, how to succeed in graduate school, and all the opportunities available and have met really amazing people that share my interests."

- "What I want to know to make sure a grad program is right for me"
- Networking
- Career information
- "I love math but I didn't have a lot of info on nonacademic careers related to math."
- "Chance to meet grad school recruiters"
- "Importance of balancing professors, prestige, and support when choosing a grad school"
- "Motivation to continue working"
- "It was so encouraging to hear all the panelists that gained a PhD tell their story."

The conference program committee included Philip Kutzko (chair for the Field of Dreams), Kathryn Chaloner (co-chair for StatFest), Robert Ankenmann, Alicia Carriquiry, Leslie Hogben, and Doug Mupasiri, together with Nagambal Shah and Brian Millen, who represented the ASA Committee on Minorities in Statistics. Major funding for the Alliance Field of Dreams Conference was provided by the National Science Foundation and the National Security Agency. Major funding for StatFest was provided by the ASA Committee on Minorities in Statistics and also by the ACT Inc. For more information on the alliance and for a list of sponsors, visit www.mathalliance.org. ■

Mathematics and Sports Intersect to Celebrate Mathematics Awareness Month



April is Mathematics Awareness Month, and this year members of the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics selected "Mathematics and Sports" as the theme. This theme highlights the intersection of the sports world with the wide world of mathematics—a universal language that is used to investigate problems ranging from the athletic to the cosmic.

Sports offers a multitude of instances and situations involving data, strategies, and chance, each of which is perfectly suited to mathematical analysis. Beyond the obvious uses of mathematics for rating baseball players and football quarterbacks, mathematics is used to design the dimple patterns on golf balls and the composition of racing tires; it is used for schedule tournaments

and rank teams; and it is used to determine tactics and to predict the ultimate limits in sports records.

In the 1960s the ABC television network began a popular weekly series called "The Wide World of Sports," which spanned the globe to show the tremendous variety of sports. The 2010 Mathematics Awareness web site has articles about baseball, basketball, football, golf, soccer, track and field, tennis, and car racing as well as videos and links to other resources. Visit www.mathaware.org to download articles and essays as well as an 8 1/2 x 11 inch copy of any of the four 2010 posters.

To order the four 2010 Mathematics Awareness Month posters, call the MAA Customer Service Center at (800) 331-1622; fax your request to (301) 206-9789; or send an email to maaservice@maa.org. ■

Statisticians Thriving at the Social Security Administration

William W. Davis, Chief Mathematical Statistician, Social Security Administration

Since its inception 75 years ago this year, the Social Security program has grown to the point where it touches the lives of almost every American. Statisticians and others in the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics at the Social Security Administration (SSA) produce data, statistics, and analyses that are used by policymakers to evaluate how well the current program meets the needs of beneficiaries and the effects of possible changes to the program on individuals, the economy, and the solvency of the program. Even the Social Security number itself is the topic of a major initiative.

The Social Security Act of 1935 created the Social Security Board, which eventually became the Social Security Administration (SSA) in 1946. For more than five decades, SSA was an agency under various cabinet-level departments. Independent agency status was regained with the Social Security Independence and Program Improvement Act of 1994. Since 1995, SSA has been an independent agency in the executive branch of the government and is headed by a commissioner who is appointed by the president with Senate confirmation for a six-year term.

SSA is responsible for one of the largest federal entitlement programs: Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI), which provides monthly benefits to qualified retired and disabled workers and their dependents, and also to survivors of insured workers. SSA also administers Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a needs-based program that provides financial support for aged, blind, and disabled adults and children with limited income and resources. During 2008, the OASDI and SSI programs paid \$615 billion and \$43 billion in benefits, respectively.

The agency has a staff of almost 65,000 employees and more than 1,300 field offices. It issues Social Security numbers (SSNs), maintains detailed earnings records for covered workers, and keeps recipient records current and accurate. Because of these broad responsibilities, SSA collects and maintains a substantial amount of program-related administrative data on current and potential beneficiaries.

With program administration as its primary function, SSA as a whole is not a statistical agency. However, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has recognized the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (ORES) within the Office of Retirement and Disability Policy (ORDP) as a statistical unit under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002.

ORES is relatively small, with about 100 employees. Almost all of them occupy research positions or perform other technical functions such as computer programming and report preparation and interface with data users. ORES researchers have graduate degrees in economics, public policy, demography, sociology, and related disciplines. Of these, approximately 10 are PhD and master's-level statisticians. These statisticians assist in informing the public about beneficiary populations and the operation of Social Security programs through publications and other products. In addition, some statisticians consult throughout SSA on a variety of important projects.

Linked Administrative Data and Projections

Because administrative data are used for determining eligibility and benefit amounts for social insurance programs, they are subject to stringent quality control procedures at SSA. However, because these data are typically limited to information required for program administration, they are restricted in scope and do not include broader variables of interest to the research community. SSA researchers need this information to project policy change impacts on program costs as well as potential distributional effects on different demographic or economic groupings. Survey data can provide this information about participants as well as similar information about nonparticipants.

In fact, SSA has been linking its administrative data with survey data for more than 40 years. Some of these linkages are with surveys that SSA commissioned to study specialized populations. However, SSA's biggest data-linkage partner is the Census Bureau, and its Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is an extremely important data source to SSA. SIPP data elements include income from a wide range of money and nonmoney sources (including public assistance programs and employer-provided benefits), financial assets, and family characteristics (including size, composition, income, and education of household members).

Linking administrative and survey data combines the completeness and accuracy of SSA administrative records with the range and scope of survey results, maximizing the strengths and minimizing the limitations associated with each. When comparable data are collected in both an administrative file and a survey, statisticians and policy analysts are able to evaluate the extent of underreporting

or overreporting attributable to the respondent. Survey responses matched to administrative data can be used to document the benefit amounts that the recipient reports in the survey and compare them with the actual dollar amounts distributed. Similarly, matched responses can be used to assess the quality of values imputed for missing income.

Beginning in 2006, the Census Bureau began a SIPP redesign with the goal of reducing cost and simultaneously increasing quality and timeliness. A recent National Academy study (www.nap.edu/catalog/12715.html) considers the pros and cons of additional uses of administrative data in the redesigned SIPP and includes a discussion of confidentiality and timeliness issues.

Linked administrative and survey data are of vital importance in developing predictive modeling systems that enable SSA and policymakers to understand the broad impact and distributional effects of current program regulations and reform proposals. To address this need, SSA has developed microsimulation models to analyze the current status of its programs and the effect of proposed program modifications.

“Modeling income in the near term” (MINT) is the most prominent model used in OASDI analysis. MINT is a microsimulation model based on linked household data from SIPP with SSA administrative records on earnings, benefit receipt, and date of death. MINT projects the major pillars of retirement income: Social Security benefits, pension benefits, income from assets, and earnings. In addition, based primarily on regression results obtained from survey and linked administrative data, MINT simulates events such as marital outcomes, age at first benefit receipt, and year of death as well as the characteristics of former, current, and future spouses. Although the name suggests near-term modeling, MINT can be used for projection through the end of the century.

According to 75-year projections by the Office of the Chief Actuary, the OASDI program is not sustainable in the long term under current law. Because of this, MINT is an ever more important source of information for policymakers as they attempt to ensure the future program viability, and MINT has become a more complex model that incorporates a wider variety of socioeconomic data. Arguably, there will be an increased role for statisticians to play in the continued development and maintenance of a more complex and more informative MINT.

Future Change in the Method for Issuance of Social Security Numbers

The Social Security number was created in 1936 to track the earnings histories of U.S. workers, for use in determining Social Security benefit entitlement, and computing benefit levels. Since then, more than

455 million SSNs have been issued, and the use of the SSN has expanded substantially. Although the purpose for assigning a number and issuing a card has not changed, over time the Social Security number has become a primary means of identification in both the public and private sectors. As the use of the Social Security number has grown, so has identity theft and Social Security number misuse.

The nine-digit SSN is composed of an area number (three digits) followed by a group number (two digits) followed by a serial number (four digits). The area number is derived from the mailing address (ZIP code) of the applicant. Group numbers are assigned within each area but not assigned in consecutive order, and serial numbers are assigned within each group. SSA has many years’ worth of potential SSNs available for future assignment. However, because of population shifts, given present rates of assignment and existing geographic allocations, two states currently have fewer than five years’ worth of SSNs available for assignment.

In a July 3, 2007, Federal Register notice, SSA solicited public comment on a proposal to change the way SSNs are assigned (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-12831.pdf>). After evaluation of the solicitation responses, the SSA commissioner decided to adopt the proposal to randomly assign SSNs from the remaining pool of available numbers with some exceptions. (For example, the 900 series of area numbers will be excluded since it is used by the IRS for employment identification numbers.) After inception of the new method, the first three digits of the SSN will no longer have any geographic significance. This method will ensure a reliable supply of SSNs for years to come while simultaneously reducing opportunities for identity theft and SSN fraud.

A potential risk in the current system of SSN assignment was highlighted recently in a January 2009 publication by Acquisti and Gross (www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10975; see also Winkler, www.pnas.org/content/106/27/10877.extract). These authors demonstrated the partial predictability of SSNs using publicly available information—especially for those who were assigned in low-population states in the SSA enumeration at birth (EAB) program in the last two decades.

Currently, SSA statisticians are working with other SSA staff to mitigate any adverse impacts associated with the decision to randomize the assignment of SSNs. While the modifications required by SSN users in government and industry are not as extensive as those required by the year 2000 (Y2K) problem, they may still be substantial. As one example, some organizations have chosen to assign nine-digit sequences that were not available for SSN assignment (such as the 800 series) as temporary personal identifiers. They will have to modify this practice in light of the fact that these numbers may become eligible for SSN assignment in the new system. ■

Journal of Privacy and Confidentiality

Privacy Journal Publishes Second Issue

The electronic *Journal of Privacy and Confidentiality* (*JPC*) has just released its second issue. Three guest editors assembled it: Satkartar K. Kinney, postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS); Joe Fred Gonzalez Jr., mathematical statistician at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and Alan F. Karr, director of NISS.

The issue contains papers derived from presentations at a workshop, "Data Confidentiality: The Next Five Years," which was held May 1–2, 2008, at NCHS headquarters in Hyattsville, Maryland. NCHS is one of several federal statistical agencies that are members of the NISS Affiliates Program. It cosponsored and co-organized the workshop with NISS.

The workshop brought together the academic and federal data confidentiality research communities, including more than 40 statisticians, computer scientists, cryptographers, and federal agency "owners" of data-confidentiality problems, with the goal of identifying important unresolved issues associated with data confidentiality. The participants articulated a research agenda to address those problems in a way that responds to current and emerging needs among federal statistical agencies. They also discussed the kinds of collaborations among statisticians, computer scientists, domain scientists, and data-owning agencies that are needed to pursue the research agenda.

This special issue of *JPC* includes eight papers based on nine presentations from the workshop. It is available at <http://repository.cmu.edu/jpc/vol1/iss2>. ■

SRCos Plans June Conference

The 2010 Summer Research Conference (SRC) of the Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCos) will take place June 6–9 at Old Dominion University, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

SRCos is one of the largest statistical organizations in the United States, promoting statistical research in the southeast region spanning 16 member states. The purpose of SRCos SRC is twofold: to encourage the interchange and mutual understanding of research ideas between young and established researchers, and to give direction to further research in a unique style.

This year, seven topics of contemporary interest will be covered:

- Spatial epidemiology
- Functional data analysis
- Multivariate and cluster analysis
- Machine learning
- Statistical shape analysis
- High-dimensional data analysis
- Design of clinical trials

A leading researcher will give a keynote address on each topic, to be followed by talks by two promising young researchers.

This conference is sponsored by the ASA and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), among others, and is open to all. For more information, visit the conference web site at www.sci.odu.edu/math/srcos2010. ■

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Member Spotlight

John Barroso



Barroso

I grew up in Gastao Vidigal, in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. When I was five, my father died, and soon after my mother remarried. For a time she sent me to live with relatives, and because none of them had my birth certificate, I did not go to school. Instead, I learned to read by stealing small pieces of newspapers

and putting the letters together. Those relatives sent me back to my mother, who eventually ran away with her new husband. For the next year or so I starved, with few clothes and no shoes.

At last an uncle asked me to move in with him, and it was then I went to school. At school I found peace and soon became the top student in my class. One day I found my cousin's "green book" on math and started studying algebra, geometry, and statistics. By eighth grade I was able to do the same homework several college students were doing. I was no math genius, but I worked hard and at one point, for fun, I memorized the whole periodic table, including the elements' weights.

When it was time to attend college, I could not afford to go, so I took a one-year prep course.

After paying rent, utilities, and tuition, the only food I could afford was one cheeseburger a day. When I was hungry I would drink coffee. After a year I got into University of São Paulo and graduated with a degree in data processing from Mackenzie University. For enjoyment I studied statistics and probability and made a computer program that produced lottery number combinations. I used combinations to tie together 10 numbers, when the lottery allowed only five. I never won the big prize, though.

In 1996, I came to the United States to study economic sociology at the University of Pittsburgh. For fun, I took statistics classes and learned a lot about regression, experiments, and nonparametric tests. One day I asked the undergraduate director, Henry Block, to let me tutor statistics. Two terms later I was hired as a statistics instructor. In 2000, Satish Yiengar, the chair of the statistics department, offered me an international teaching fellowship. It was then I decided to embrace statistics with all my heart.

I now teach at Duquesne University, where my goal is to make statistics understandable and accessible to everyone. I often write inspirational, conceptual, short texts in the form of a story and place them on Facebook, where my students can access them. In my lectures, I try to explain statistics as though the student in front of me is the poor boy I once was. I try to see myself sitting among them and remember when I saw school as a place where the complex world became simple. ■

Proposals Invited for Defense Projects

The Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) has formed a partnership with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) to develop the next generation of mathematical and statistical algorithms for the detection of chemical and biological threats.

The DMS is looking for proposals from the mathematical sciences community in two main areas: mathematical and statistical techniques for genomics and mathematical and statistical techniques for the analysis of data from sensor systems.

The full proposal deadline is May 20. For more information visit the NSF web site, www.nsf.gov/publications, and search for Algorithms for Threat Detection (ATD). ■

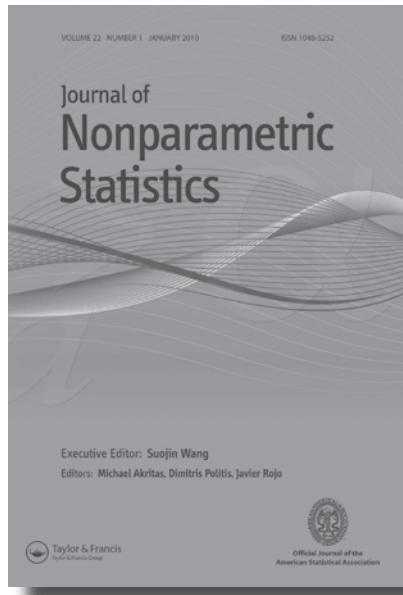
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As part of an exciting new partnership between the American Statistical Association and Taylor & Francis, we are delighted to announce that ASA members are now eligible for a substantially discounted online subscription rate to *The Journal of Nonparametric Statistics*. Members can subscribe for just \$15 per volume.

The *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics* publishes eight issues per volume and provides a medium for the publication of research and survey work in nonparametric statistics and related areas. The scope includes, but is not limited to the following topics:

- Nonparametric modeling
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- Resampling methods
- Lack-of-fit testing
- Multivariate analysis
- Inference with high-dimensional data
- Dimension reduction and variable selection
- Methods for errors in variables, missing, censored, and other incomplete data structures
- Inference of stochastic processes
- Sample surveys
- Time series analysis
- Longitudinal and functional data analysis
- Nonparametric Bayes methods and decision procedures
- Semiparametric models and procedures
- Statistical methods for imaging and tomography
- Statistical inverse problems
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* Those with email addresses not on file with the ASA will be sent a ballot by mail.

Astrostatistics Committee Initiated

Joseph Hilbe, Solar System Ambassador, NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) Council recently approved the creation of the first standing astrostatistics committee by a recognized statistical or astronomical organization. It also approved the ISI Astrostatistics Network, the first global association of astrostatisticians.

The foremost goals of the committee, which serves as the executive board of the network, are to foster collaboration between statisticians and astronomers; to support ongoing astrostatistics educational programs, collaborations, conferences, and groups; and to promote astrostatistical research through invited sessions, forums, and in a proposed *Journal of Astrostatistics* (Wiley). The committee has been awarded an invited session at next year's ISI World Statistics Congress in Dublin, Ireland.

ASA members and others with an interest in the statistical analysis of astronomical data are invited to become members of the ISI Astrostatistical Network. There are no dues or obligations, but network members are requested to provide their name, affiliation and address, email or web site, and areas of research interest. A registry is maintained where network members can identify other members with similar interests and capabilities for the purpose of collaborative research. Statisticians with expertise appropriate for a particular astronomical research study may thus be identified for participation on the study team.

Several ASA members serve on the ISI astrostatistics committee. Three are ASA Fellows Joseph Hilbe (chair), Solar System Ambassador, NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech; G. Jogesh Babu (vice chair), director, Pennsylvania State Center for Astrostatistics; and David van Dyk (vice chair), coordinator, California-Harvard AstroStatistics Collaboration. ASA members Eric Feigelson, a noted astrophysicist and associate director of the Pennsylvania Center for Astrostatistics, is the vice chair liaison to the International Astronomical Union, and David Hand, who just ended his tenure as president of the Royal Statistical Society, is vice chair liaison to that organization.

The inaugural ISI astrostatistics web site is at <http://isi.cbs.nl/COMM/AstroStat/index.htm>. It will be updated regularly. Direct requests for membership in the network to the chair, Joseph Hilbe, at hilbe@asu.edu or j.m.hilbe@gmail.com. ■

Seriation Article Leads Off Volume 3

Joseph S. Verducci, Editor, *Statistical Analysis and Data Mining*

The four papers in Volume 3, Number 2 of the journal *Statistical Analysis and Data Mining* span a wide range of topics, from a very general method for discovering patterns in data to very specific models for the reputation of those who update wikis.

In the first paper, **Innar Liiv** reviews how seriation, or reordering of observations, has revealed the hidden structure of data in many disciplines. Typically seriation is achieved for these myriad examples by permuting the rows and/or columns of matrices to optimize interesting objective functions.

In the second paper, **Ruixin Guo** and **Sounak Chakraborty** present a general method, Bayesian adaptive nearest neighbor (BANN), for classification in high dimensions. BANN uses a Bayesian framework to combine ideas for adapting the shape (discriminative adaptive nearest neighbor [DANN]) as well as the size (probabilistic nearest neighbor [PNN]) of neighborhoods, based on extended local patterns. BANN performs better than DANN or PNN on nine benchmark data sets.

In the third paper, **Basheer Hawwash** and **Olfa Nasraoui** demonstrate an efficient method for mining evolving profiles, which is particularly sensitive to changes in profile patterns. They apply their method to track changes in the profiles of those accessing a library web site.

Finally, **Sara Javanmardi**, **Cristina Videira Lopes**, and **Pierre Baldi** propose three nested models to estimate dynamically the reputation of contributors to a wiki site, where “reputation” ranges from 0 (vandals) to 1 (administrators). The first model simply updates the fraction of “good” contributions, the second adjusts each contribution by the length of time it has endured, and the third takes into account the reputation of the deleter.

All in all, the papers span the range from thought-provoking to immediately useful. ■

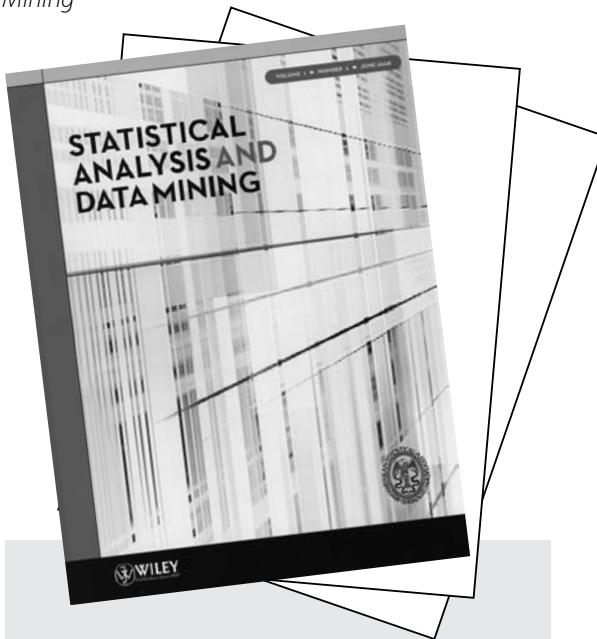


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Discussions, Teacher's Corner Highlight the February Issue

John Stufken, Editor, *The American Statistician*

The February 2010 issue of *The American Statistician* opens with a discussion of the article "Desired and Feared—What Do We Do Now and Over the Next 50 Years?" by **Xiao-Li Meng**, which appeared in the August 2009 issue. Thoughtful and thought-provoking contributions to the discussion are made by **Robert Easterling** ("Passion-Driven Statistics"), **David Fox** ("Desired and Feared—Quo Vadis or Quid Agis?"), **Roger Hoerl** and **Ronald Snee** ("Moving the Statistics Profession Forward to the Next Level"), **Brian Kotz** ("Thoughts on the Importance of the Undergraduate Statistics Experience to the Discipline's [and Society's] Future"), **Frank Soler** ("Who Is Teaching Introductory Statistics?"), **Richard Cleary** and **Samuel Woolford** ("Response to 'Desired and Feared'"), and **Elart von Collani** ("Response to 'Desired and Feared—What Do We Do Now and Over the Next 50 Years?' by Xiao-Li Meng"). This is followed by Xiao-Li Meng's "Rejoinder: Better Training, Deeper Thinking, and More Policing."

Regular sections in this issue contain some very interesting contributions as well. The Teacher's Corner starts with a contribution to the discussion of *p*-values, with a strong emphasis on effect size, by **Richard Browne** ("The T-test *P* Value and Its Relationship to the Effect Size and $P(X>Y)$ "). This is followed by an entertaining article by **Marios Pavlides** and **Michael Perlman** ("On Estimating

the Face Probabilities of Shaved Dice with Partial Data"), who take us on a journey of surprises that resulted from their communication with Persi Diaconis. Following that is "Elementary Statistical Methods and Measurement Error," by **Stephen B. Vardeman, Joanne R. Wendelberger, Tom Burr, Michael S. Hamada, Leslie M. Moore, J. Marcus Jobe, Max D. Morris, and Huaiqing Wu**. They make the case that we should pay more attention to sources of physical variation when teaching statistical methods, starting at the introductory level.

The final paper in this section, "Resequencing Topics in an Introductory Applied Statistics Course," by **Christopher J. Malone, John Gabrosek, Phyllis Curtiss, and Matt Race**, proposes changes to the sequence in which core statistical concepts are presented in an introductory applied statistics course.

The first paper in the General section, "A Model for an Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Program" by **Julie Legler, Paul Roback, Kathryn Ziegler-Graham, James Scott, Sharon Lane-Getaz, and Matthew Richey**, is inspired by the May 2009 *TAS* article by Browne and Kass and discusses the philosophy and practice of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research at St. Olaf College. **T. D. Stanley, Stephen B. Jarrell, and Hristos Doucouliagos** ("Could It Be Better to Discard 90% of the Data? A Statistical Paradox") offer that, in the face of publication selection bias, inference may be improved by discarding a large portion of the data. In "Beyond the Quintessential Quincunx," **Michael A. Proschan** and **Jeffrey S. Rosenthal** suggest how a modification of the quincunx can be used to explore and introduce basic statistical and probabilistic concepts.

Finally, **Henry S. Lynn, Zhanjian Dong, and Zhe Mu** make good on what they promise in the title of their article, "Comparison of Software Algorithms for Calculating REML Wald Type Confidence Limits for the Between Group Variance Component in a Small Sample One-Way Random Effects Model Example." ■

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March Issue Features Call to Action for Statisticians

The March 2010 issue of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* features an article based on the remarks delivered by 2009 ASA President **Sally Morton** at the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington, DC. Titled “Statistics: From Evidence to Policy,” it contains Morton’s call for individual statisticians and the association to apply their expertise in the service of improved public policy. Morton quotes Peter Orszag, director of the Office of Management and Budget, as indicating that “Policy decisions should be driven by evidence.” She recommends that statisticians, both individually and collectively, engage with important issues through visits to Congress and public statements. As an example of a relevant public policy domain, Morton focuses on health care and the role of quantitative methods in the push toward evidence-based medicine.

Applications and Case Studies

The lead article in this section is “A Moving Average Approach for Spatial Statistical Models of Stream Networks,” by **Jay Ver Hoef** and **Erin Peterson**. Water is a critical natural resource, and monitoring the network of U.S. waterways is a critical activity. Statistical models for the data obtained from such monitoring need to respect the correlation among measurement points. Spatial models using covariance models based on Euclidean distance may not be valid because two points can be close in terms of Euclidean distance but far apart in terms of stream topology. The authors build a stream topology, a way of describing the links between streams, that starts from the most downstream point in the network and computes distance upstream from that point. These distances are used to build moving average models that incorporate spatial dependence in a way that is analogous to how moving average models are used in time-series analyses.

Two discussion pieces accompany the article, one by **Noel Cressie** and **David O’Donnell** and a second by **Sujit Sahu**. Cressie and O’Donnell provide insightful remarks about the tail-up and tail-down model specifications and also speculate about approaches for developing nonstationary models. Sahu suggests extensions of the moving average



models to incorporate a temporal (as well as a spatial) component and to accommodate nonlinear measurements.

An interesting article by **Tyler McCormick**, **Matthew Salganik**, and **Tian Zhang** asks “How Many People Do You Know?” and addresses statistical methods for estimating the size of personal networks. The focus is both estimating the size of an individual’s networks and the distribution of network sizes across the population. The latter is crucial to understanding the spread of diseases and exploring the evolution of group behavior. Standard methods for estimating network size ask questions like “How many pregnant woman do you know?” and then use information about the frequency of such people in the population to infer network size.

Unfortunately, such approaches are prone to biases related to heterogeneity of the population (some people are more likely to know pregnant woman than others) and to other sources of bias. McCormick and coauthors develop a latent, nonrandom mixing model that addresses several important biases and provides improved inference. Interestingly, their model results also provide advice about how to design the survey questions, such that simpler methods are likely to be effective.

JASA Book Reviews in the March Issue

Bayesian Evaluation of Informative Hypotheses—Herbert Hoijtink, Irene Klugkist, and Paul A. Boelen (eds.)

Bayesian Methods for Measures of Agreement—Lyle D. Broemeling

Computational Intelligence and Feature Selection: Rough and Fuzzy Approaches—Richard Jensen and Qiang Shen

Design of Comparative Experiments—R. A. Bailey

Handbook of Multilevel Analysis—Jan de Leeuw and Erik Meijer (eds.)

Introduction to Nonparametric Estimation—Alexandre B. Tsybakov

Lagrangian Probability Distributions—Prem C. Consul and Felix Famoye

Missing Data in Longitudinal Studies: Strategies for Bayesian Modeling and Sensitivity Analysis—Michael J. Daniels and Joseph W. Hogan

Negative Binomial Regression—Joseph M. Hilbe

Simulation and Inference for Stochastic Differential Equations: With R Examples—Stefano M. Iacus

Statistical Advances in the Biomedical Sciences: Clinical Trials, Epidemiology, Survival Analysis, and Bioinformatics—Atanu Biswas, Sujay Datta, Jason P. Fine, and Mark R. Segal (eds.)

Survival and Event History Analysis: A Process Point of View—Odd O. Aalen, Ornulf Borgan, and Haakon K. Gjessing

Design and Analysis of Bioavailability and Bioequivalence Studies (3rd ed.)—Shein-Chung Chow and Jen-pei Liu

An Introduction to Copulas (2nd ed.)—Roger B. Nelsen

Statistics: A Guide to the Unknown (4th ed.)—Roxy Peck, George Casella, George W. Cobb, Roger Hoerl, Deborah Nolan, Robert Starbuck, and Hal Stern

Theory and Methods

The usual broad mix of topics appears in this section. **Hemant Ishwaran** and co-authors **Udaya Kogalur, Eiran Gorodeski, Andy Minn, and Michael Lauer** address “High-Dimensional Variable Selection for Survival Data.” Modern biotechnology has created many instances in which a very large number of predictors (e.g., gene expression values) are available for statistical modeling on a relatively small number of units. The large p , small n problem, as it is known, seems to arise with increasing frequency. Here the goal is to relate the high-dimensional data to a survival time outcome while still dealing with the usual survival-analysis issues such as right censoring.

The authors use random survival forests (RSF), an extension of Breiman’s random forests used in regression and classification settings. The minimal depth of a tree is a form of order statistic that can be used to measure predictiveness of a variable in a survival tree. The authors derive the distribution of the minimal depth and use it for variable selection. Several methodological advances lead to a new regularized algorithm called “RSF-variable hunting,” which implements the approach. Several examples are presented, including gene selection using microarray data.

The arrival of a census year once again brings attention to the thorny issue of collecting critical data while preserving the privacy of survey respondents. In “A Statistical Framework for Differential Privacy,” **Larry Wasserman** and **Shuheng Zhou** introduce the *JASA* audience to the concept of differential privacy that has emerged in the computer science literature. The setting is one in which data collectors want to prepare a data release that provides as much information as possible to the public while preserving the privacy rights of respondents. The data release here is viewed as a random mechanism that produces a release product given a true data set. The notion of a random mechanism is consistent with many of the strategies that are used in practice, including data swapping.

Differential privacy is a particular privacy requirement that requires the random mechanism be insensitive to changes to a single data point. More formally, the ratio of the probability of a particular data release should be near 1 if only a single data point is varied. The closer the ratio is to 1 the greater the privacy protection. Wasserman and Zhou study several different data-release mechanisms that satisfy the requirement and compare them by computing the rate of convergence of distributions constructed from the released data to the true target distribution in the population.

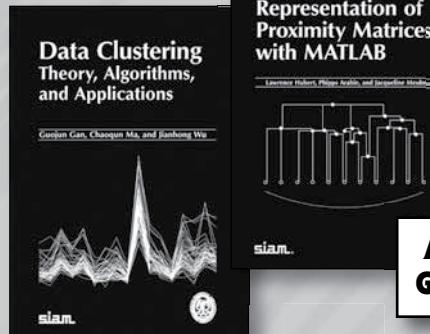
Please see <http://pubs.amstat.org/toc/jasa/105/489> for the full list of articles and books under review. ■

Titles from the ASA-SIAM SERIES on statistics and applied probability

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Guojun Gan, Chaoqun Ma,
and Jianhong Wu

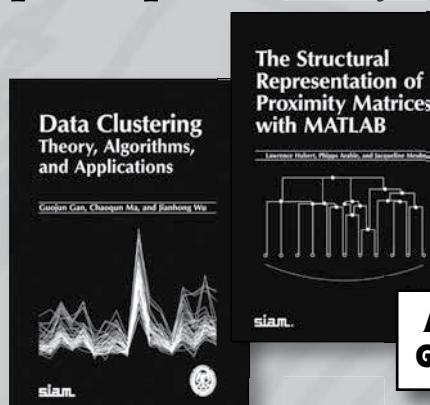
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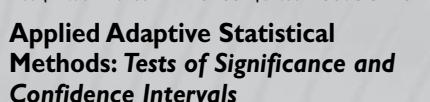
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Richard K. Burdick, Connie M. Borror,
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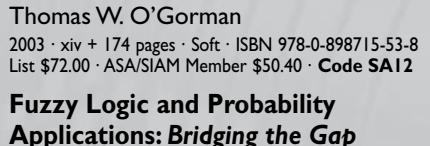
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Anthology of Statistics in Sports

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and James J. Cochran

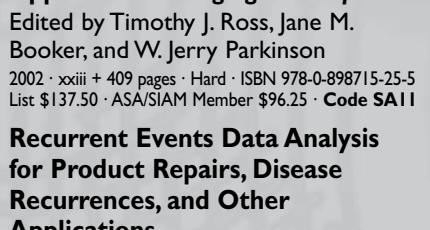
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Experimental Design for Formulation*

Wendell F. Smith

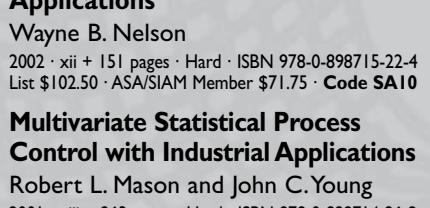
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Biostatistics Funding Looking Good at NIH

Keith Crank, ASA Research and Graduate Education Manager

There is good news coming out of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding funding of biostatistics. The Biostatistical Methods and Research Design Study Section (BMRD) is not going to disappear—at least not in the near future. A decision has been made to continue BMRD with an expanded scope. However, the continuation of BMRD depends on it having a sufficient number of proposals to review. If your research is in an area covered by BMRD, as described here, please submit your proposal for review by this study section.

Last December, I wrote about some misconceptions regarding funding of proposals submitted to BMRD. These misconceptions may have been the main cause of the decline in the number of proposals submitted to BMRD in recent years. I doubt that my December article completely changed people's opinion of BMRD. So I invite you to come to the JSM session on NIH that I have organized. You can raise issues directly with some of the people involved in BMRD, as well as program directors from NCI and NIGMS.

I want to thank Marie Davidian (NCSU) and Michelle Dunn (NCI) for their efforts to keep BMRD from being folded into another study section. They deserve much of the credit for keeping BMRD alive.

Here is the latest information from the NIH web site about BMRD:

The Biostatistical Methods and Research Design (BMRD) Study Section reviews applications that seek to advance statistical and mathematical techniques and technologies applicable to the design and analysis of data from biomedical, behavioral, and social science research. Emphasis is on the promotion of quantitative methods to aid in the design, analysis, and interpretation of clinical, genomic, and population-based research studies. This includes analytic software development, novel applications, and secondary data analyses utilizing existing database resources.

Specific areas covered by BMRD

High-dimensional data methods such as those arising from genomic technologies, proteomics, sequencing, and imaging studies; development

and applications of methods for data mining and statistical machine learning; statistical methods for high throughput data; biomarker identification

Novel analyses of existing data sets

Innovative application of existing, or development of new, statistical and computational methodologies; application of methods in substantially new areas of application; innovative, nonroutine data analysis strategies, including combinations of existing methods rather than de novo development of new methods; development and evaluation of novel analytic tools to address new questions within existing data sets

Research design

Development and innovative application of randomized trial designs; sample size determination; design issues for experimental and observational studies; methods to improve study design efficiencies; methods for survey sample design; methods for comparative effectiveness studies

Data collection and measurement

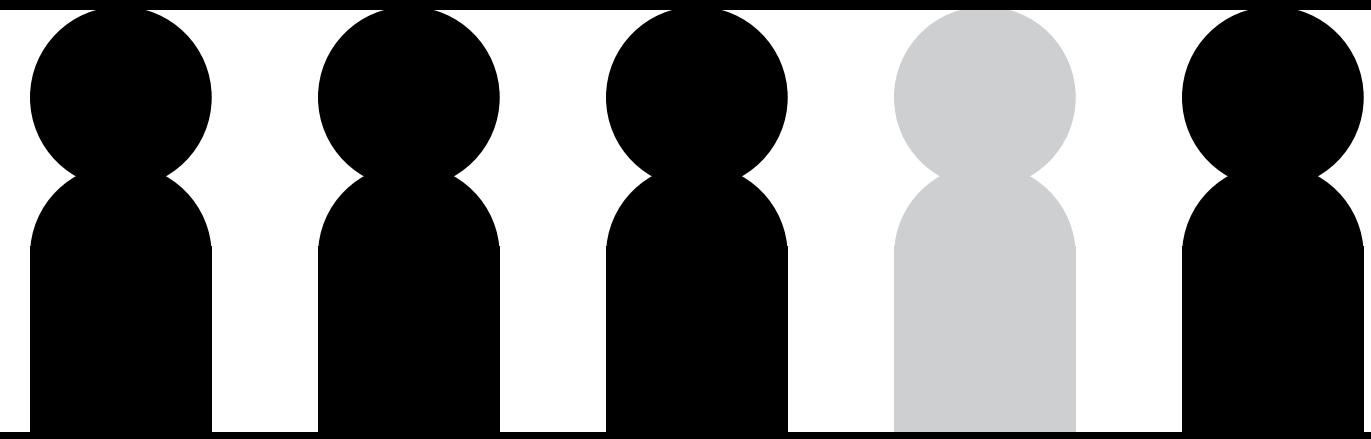
Development and adaption of methods to estimate and improve data precision, reliability, and validity; methods to estimate and adjust for bias, measurement error, confounding, sampling and nonsampling error; psychometric methods

Data analysis and modeling

Development of statistical theory, analytic methods and models, computational tools, and algorithms for the analysis and interpretation of data from clinical studies, randomized trials, observational studies, epidemiological studies, human genetic association studies, environmental studies, complex surveys, large databases, and registries; methods to handle data features and anomalies such as correlation, clustering, and missing data; risk prediction and forecasting methods; causal modeling

This and additional information about BMRD are available at <http://cms.csr.nih.gov/PeerReviewMeetings/CSRIRGDescriptionNew/HDMIRG/BMRD.html>. To contact me, send an email to keith@amstat.org. Questions and comments are always welcome. ■

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Science and Statistical Agencies Fare Well in 2011 Budget Request

ASA Members Should Urge Congress to Support Requests

Steve Pierson, ASA Director of Science Policy, pierson@amstat.org

“ Wow. ”

Jeffrey Mervis, *Science*,
February 1, 2010

Such is how *Science's* veteran science policy reporter Jeffrey Mervis started his blog on the day of the fiscal year 2011 budget request from the Obama administration. The seemingly difficult-to-impress Mervis also exulted the news in his title, “Science Triumphs in Obama’s 2011 Budget Request.” At the top of the president’s list were the requested increases for the budgets of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. As reported in Keith Crank’s March column in *Amstat News*, NSF would see an 8% increase to \$7.4 billion, and NIH would see a \$1 billion (3%) increase to \$32.1 billion, if the president’s levels for these two agencies are enacted.

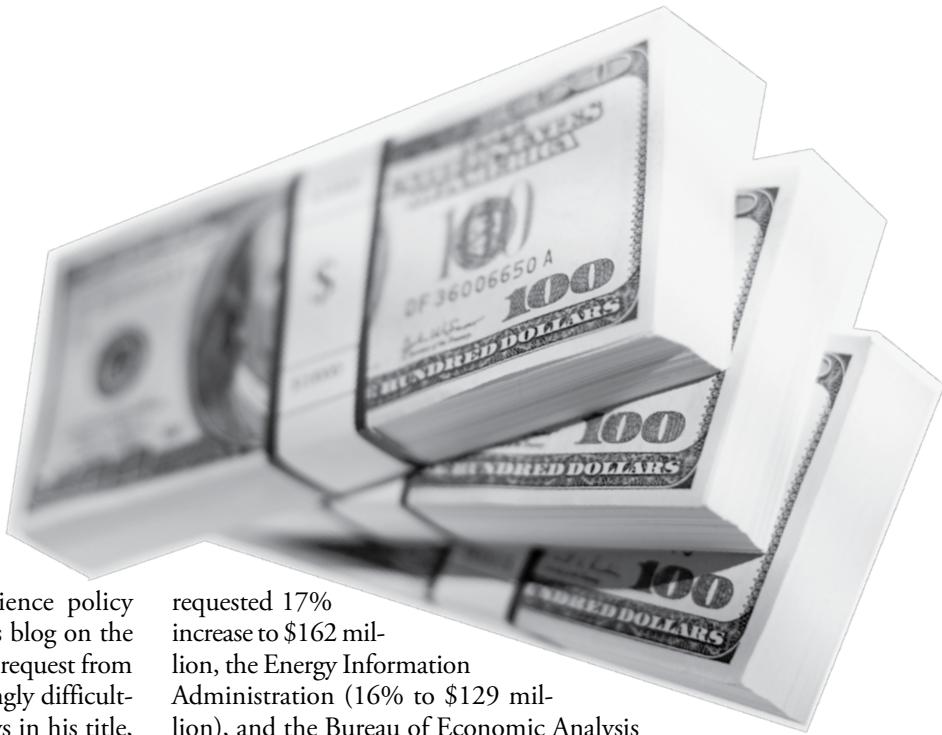
Given the political attention on the country’s budget deficits, these increases are remarkable, reflecting the administration’s belief in basic research being fundamental to spurring long-term economic growth. Their remarkableness also makes them susceptible, so ASA members should communicate their support for these numbers to Congress.

Many federal statistical agencies also stand out in the FY11 request, reflecting the administration’s emphasis on data-driven decisionmaking. The National Center for Health Statistics, with a

requested 17% increase to \$162 million, the Energy Information Administration (16% to \$129 million), and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (16% to \$109 million) have the largest requested increases. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (6% to \$646 million), the Economic Research Service (6% to \$87 million), and the National Center for Education Statistics (5% to \$279 million) also see requested increases larger than inflation.

With the completion of decennial census data collection this year, the FY11 budget request for the U.S. Census Bureau, \$1.3 billion, is much smaller than its FY10 budget of \$7.4 billion but includes funding to prepare for the 2012 Economic Census, to increase the American Community Survey (ACS) sample size to 3.5 million households annually, and to create supplementary measures of poverty. (More information on the statistical agency request can be found in Chapter 18 of the FY11 Analytical Perspectives, at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/topics.pdf).

The president’s request is, of course, only the opening salvo in the budget deliberations. Each chamber of Congress must produce and approve its



Contacting Your Elected Officials

Note that you don't need to be a U.S. citizen to make this contact; federal employees, however, should contact their agency's ethics officers before proceeding.

- Go to the webpage of the elected official. Learn who your senators are and find a link to their web sites at www.senate.gov. To determine your representative and find his/her webpage, go to www.house.gov.
- Click on the link for contacting this person. This typically turns up a web form where you fill in your contact information.
- For the message box, the basic message for supporting NSF and NIH should be the following. (For any of the statistical agencies, please contact me at pierson@amstat.org for help with the message so that I can learn more about ASA membership interests.)

As a constituent and statistician, I write to ask you to urge the Appropriations Committee leadership to fund the National Institutes of Health at least at the president's request level, \$32.1 billion, for FY11 and to fully fund the National Science Foundation at the president's request of \$7.4 billion. The NIH request approximately covers the costs of inflation and will help make the most of the generous investments Congress provided for NIH in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. I would also ask that funding be used to bolster the training programs for biostatisticians, who are in high demand in industry, academia, and government.

NSF, the largest funder of academic research for nonbiomedical fields, has been forced to turn away many proposals highly rated in the merit-review process. Indeed, its proposal funding rate has fallen to one in four proposals, down from one in three a decade ago. The administration's request keeps NSF on track to increase the proposal funding rate of the highly rated proposals in order to keep basic research a fundamental driver of U.S. economic growth.

Individualizing and buttressing this message is encouraged but not required. It's most important that Congress hear from you.

Please complete this process three times: once for each of your two senators and once for your representative.

Contact me for help with any of these steps, or to share any responses, at pierson@amstat.org; (703) 302-1841.

ASA Science Policy Actions

ASA signs onto letters in support of fiscal year 2011 Budgets for U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

ASA cosponsors briefing on Hill by National Institute of General Medical Sciences Director Jeremy Berg

ASA President sends letter with ASA's review of the Common Core K-12 Standards

ASA signs onto letter to President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology on STEM education principles.

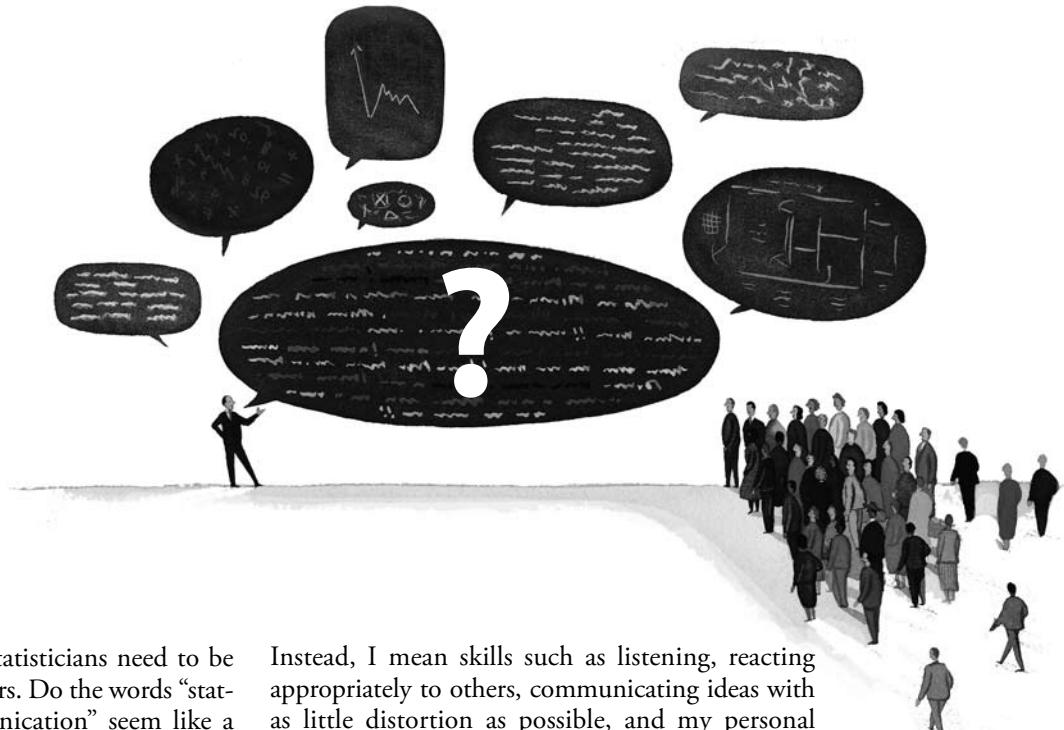
own version of the budget. The House and Senate must reconcile their versions and then each approve the joint version before sending it to the president for his signature.

To realize their requested increases, these agencies must survive many challenges. Any budget item with a large proposed increase is targeted by those seeking to increase other budgets or by those simply looking to trim the overall budget. Further, while budget increases may reflect an administration's priority (or that of the House or Senate), one needs to keep in mind the increase may be funded by unrealistic cuts elsewhere. For example, administrations regularly omit congressionally earmarked funds from an agency's baseline, knowing full well Congress will earmark funds again and will have to find the funds to do so.

Given the many pitfalls that could beset any of the above budgets through the budget process, ASA members should contact their U.S. senators and U.S. representative, urging them to support the president's numbers. Such communications, coupled with efforts from other professional societies and stakeholders, are necessary to keep science and statistical agencies a priority in this difficult fiscal environment. ■

Statistical Communicators Anonymous

Erin Tanenbaum, Director of Statistical Resources, Nielsen Co.



Like all professionals, statisticians need to be effective communicators. Do the words “statistician” and “communication” seem like a contradiction? A simple Google search for “statisticians, communicate” shows headlines such as “There are plenty of [statisticians] who simply do not communicate well with nonstatisticians” or my personal favorite, “Statisticians in industry: a failure in communication.” Yet *Amstat News* articles often reflect the observation in Kathleen Kiernan’s article, “Opportunities Abound for Statisticians in Tech Support,” in the December 2009 issue. There she says, “I have increased my ... communication skills, which are sometimes just as important as my statistical skill set.”

Other *Amstat News* articles have focused on the need for statistical departments to build communications training into their curriculum. Although this is an excellent idea, I wonder about those of us who have already graduated with a master’s or are in graduate school. What can we do to prepare ourselves for the challenges that supposedly are as important as our technical skills? How can we become successful communicators?

So first, let’s take an inventory: What communication skills are needed for statisticians? I’m not referring to simple explanations of *t*-tests to a nonstatistician (as many of you might have hoped).

Instead, I mean skills such as listening, reacting appropriately to others, communicating ideas with as little distortion as possible, and my personal favorite: using nonthreatening ways to convey a message. Yet statisticians gravitate toward black-and-white language as a way to hinder communication. (I like to think of it as the influence of 0s and 1s on our lives.)

Here’s an example: A statistician says to another statistician, “Wow, I’m impressed by the number of publications you have under your belt. How do you do it?” The well-published statistician responds, “I work around the clock. Without that kind of dedication to the profession, there is no hope of ever publishing. In fact, if you don’t work around the clock you should consider yourself an analyst, not a statistician.” How would you respond to something that seems designed to detour the conversation? Do you comply with the shift in conversation and start talking about dedication to the profession? Do you get angry but say very little? Or maybe you think “What a jerk” and decide to let him know what you think of him.

All these reactions, however common to most of us, hinder your ultimate goal of learning how you could publish an article. Those who stay the course and continue with follow-up questions are ahead of the pack. For example, you could have said, “That’s

nice, but really, did you have a mentor? Maybe you read a book? I'd really like to learn more about your publication style."

Should a master's program in statistics teach us communication skills? Sure. Yet I'm not convinced that professors could fix all our bad communication habits and make us masters in computations within the typical two years of a master's program. So to help those of us who have already graduated, or are about to graduate, I offer some simple steps. I write "simple," and yet there is nothing simple about this process because communication is not something that statisticians are naturally good at. Similar to beating any bad habit, you will need a set of steps to guide you. Let's call these six steps the "statistical communicators anonymous" guide.

STEP 1. Admit that you have a problem. Not convinced because "compared to other statisticians" you are a decent communicator? The first few chapters of *Crucial Conversations* by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan, and Al Switzler will bring you back down to earth. Or consider seeking feedback from your co-workers through a confidential 360 review. Either way, once you acknowledge the problem, be sure to give yourself a break. After all, you are trying to fix the problem. There is no need to dwell on the fact that you have a high need for improvement.

STEP 2. Recognize that the power of effective communication can help you throughout your life. This step is hard for many, since the word "power" conjures up the idea of manipulation and deception. Yet that is not the meaning. A prime example: You would like to work with a renowned statistician in your field. The only problem is that he (or she) always shows up a half hour late (or more) to meetings, and he's very condescending. Yet you admire him, and you know that if you could tolerate working with him for just six months, what you would learn would be invaluable to your career. In exchange, you know that he would receive a dedicated employee for those six months because you are extremely motivated to work with him.

Now what can you do to prepare yourself for the six months? Do you use him for his knowledge but talk about him behind his back? Or do you learn tricks to deal with his annoyances so that you can keep your sanity as well as your gossip to yourself?

STEP 3. Learn a new skill. Now is the time to pick up a book, surf the web, or attend a communications training course. You will want to learn new methods on topics such as teamwork, listening,

or reading people. Consider reading the classics: *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, by Dale Carnegie, or *Please Understand Me II: Temperament, Character, Intelligence*, by David Keirsey. Or seek out lesser-known works such as *The Platinum Rule*, by Tony Alessandra and Michael J. O'Connor, or the *Harvard Business Review on Effective Communication*, compiled by Chris Argyris.

It's important in this step to take the books seriously. In step 2 you acknowledged that communication skills could help you; in this step it's essential to understand that although you will not use all of the tools learned in each book, many of these tools have worked for thousands of people.

STEP 4. Practice each new skill you learn. Rome wasn't built in a day. Only time, patience, and perseverance can turn statisticians into good communicators. Our mathematical backgrounds make this step especially difficult, as we're used to unlocking formulas and using those formulas instantly with a high rate of success. Yet when applying new communication techniques, it's not that straightforward. Time and again I've attempted techniques, reflected later on what went well (and didn't), and then brainstormed ways to tackle the next similar conversation. Remember, practice makes perfect.

STEP 5. Seek help from others. Find a communications mentor, ask questions at conferences, join an ASA committee, and learn to appreciate and work with people you might otherwise choose to avoid. By this step you've learned some communication skills on your own—now take that knowledge and expand it by seeking feedback from others. No one person will have all the answers. In fact, some people may give lousy advice. Still, I've noticed that at least one out of eight interactions contributes to my own learning journey. I'm hopeful that you will have a similar success rate when reaching out to others.

STEP 6. Rest and repeat. If our end goal is to enhance our careers but communication skills don't come naturally, then it is fair to give ourselves a break and reward small victories. We spend our academic careers focusing on solving problems. It's a bit of a shock when we realize that there is more to our careers than math formulas and statistical software programs. It's important in this step to see the gray instead of the black and white. Any improvement you make will pay dividends far in excess of what it took to get there.

Remember that effective communication is something we all need to commit to on an ongoing basis if we are going to succeed as a profession. So go ahead—pave the way for the next generation of statisticians. ■

India to Create Museum of Statistics

“ Give me a museum
and I'll fill it. ”

Pablo Picasso

A five-acre plot on the campus of the University of Hyderabad is the future home of Sankhya: The National Museum of Statistics. Planners say it will be the first of its kind in the world. It is being designed to showcase the history of statistics; statistics' early applications for data relating to people and the state, for administrative purposes; and the emergence of statistics as a method for solving problems in all areas of human endeavor. The organizers also hope to create public interest and encourage the study of statistics with respect to the science and technology of the future.

The university has donated the land, which is close to the C. R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science (CRRAO AIMSCS). A committee of specialists with experience in designing museums and displays will be formed to plan the museum building and lay out the exhibits. The planners invite suggestions on these from statisticians everywhere.

The organizers have proposed setting up national and international committees to raise donations from the government, philanthropic institutions, and individuals, for the purpose of building the museum, acquiring the material for exhibition, and advising on matters related to achieving the objectives of the museum, as stated in the memorandum of the society. Volunteers for these committees are welcome.

The museum is a joint enterprise of the University of Hyderabad and CRRAO AIMSCS and will function under rules and regulations formulated by a council constituted according to the bylaws of the society.

Donations are being solicited by means of a special account at the University of Hyderabad in the name of the museum. Donors in India can write rupee checks payable to Finance Officer, University of Hyderabad, Acc. Sankhya: The National Museum of Statistics, and send the checks to S. B. Rao at the address below. The donations are 100% income tax-exempt in India.

Organizers

The National Museum of Statistics was founded by the following members and registered as a society under Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act of 2001:

Seyed Hasnain, Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, President

C. R. Rao, FRS, Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Advisor, CRRAO AIMSCS

M. S. Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India

R. Radhakrishna, Chairman, National Statistical Commission, Government of India

V. K. Saraswat, Scientific Advisor to Defense Minister, Government of India

M. Barma, Director, TIFR

S. B. Rao, Director, C.R.RAO AIMSCS, Member Secretary

M. S. Raghunathan, FRS, TIFR

C. S. Seshadri, FRS, Director, Chennai Mathematical Institute

U.S. donors may make checks payable to SHARE with the notation "Sankhya: The National Museum of Statistics." Donations made in U.S. dollars are 100% tax-deductible in the United States and should be sent to Vijay V. Yeldandi, MD, FACP, FCCP, 445 E. North Water Street, Apt. 701, Chicago, IL 60611; yeldandi@ichhaindia.org.

Donors are requested to inform both S. B. Rao by email at siddanib@yahoo.co.in or by letter to C. R. Rao AIMSCS, Aryabhatta University of Hyderabad Campus, C. R. Rao Road, Hyderabad, India 500046; and also C. R. Rao by email at crr1@psu.edu or by letter to 29 Old Orchard Street, Williamsville, NY 14221.

There is also a provision to dedicate sections of the museum in the names of donors with substantial contributions. For details, contact S. B. Rao or C. R. Rao. ■

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Textbooks in Statistics

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J. Albert, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, USA

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M. O. Finkelstein, New York, NY, USA

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T. Hastie, R. Tibshirani, J. Friedman, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

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Marie Davidian

Marie Davidian is the recipient of the North Carolina State University Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence—the highest award given by NC State in recognition of faculty career accomplishments.

Davidian will receive a medal and a framed certificate at the university's commencement dinner May 14 and also will be recognized at the commencement ceremony. Medal recipients' names are inscribed on a plaque that is on permanent display in the faculty senate chambers.

Established in 1992, the Holladay Medal recognizes members of the NC State faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the university through achievements in research, teaching, or service over their careers. Award recipients are approved by the university board of trustees.

Donald Gaver



Gaver

Donald Gaver, distinguished professor of operations research at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, since 1970, was named the 2009 recipient of the U.S. Army Wilks Award. The award was presented to Gaver on October 21 at the 2009 Army Conference on

Flournoy Part of Math Panel



Nancy Flournoy, second from left, was part of a panel of mathematicians discussing the new math at the recent New Yorker Festival. Others in the photo include (left to right) Moderator Ben McGrath, Flournoy, Bill James, Sudhir Venkatesh, and Nate Silver. To read about the discussion visit the University of Missouri's College of Arts and Sciences web page at <http://coas.missouri.edu/mizzoustories/faculty/story-flournoy.html>.

Applied Statistics at Arizona State University.

The Wilks Award goes to an individual who has made substantial contributions to statistical methodology and to applications impacting the practice of statistics in the Army. At the award ceremony, special mention was made of Gaver's strong contributions to statistical modeling and inference and to multiple aspects of reliability theory and its applications.

Ingram Olkin

The department of biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health named **Ingram Olkin** recipient of the 2010 Marvin Zelen Leadership Award in Statistical Science. Olkin, a CHP/PCOR Fellow, is a professor of statistics and education at the department of statistics,



Olkin

Stanford University. On May 21 at Harvard University, Olkin will deliver a public lecture titled "Measures of Heterogeneity, Diversity, and Inequality."

This annual award honors Marvin Zelen's long and distinguished career as a statistician and his major role in shaping the field of biostatistics. It recognizes an individual in government, industry, or academia who, by virtue of his/her outstanding leadership, has greatly impacted the theory and practice of statisti-

cal science. While individual accomplishments are considered, the most distinguishing criterion is the awardee's contribution to the creation of an environment in which statistical science and its applications have flourished. In addition to delivering the public lecture, Olkin will be presented with a citation and an honorarium.

Nominations for next year's award should be sent to the Marvin Zelen Leadership Award Committee, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, 655 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. Nominations should include a letter describing the contributions of the candidate, specifically highlighting the award criteria, and a curriculum vitae. Supporting letters and materials would be helpful to the committee.

Nominations must be received by November 1. ■

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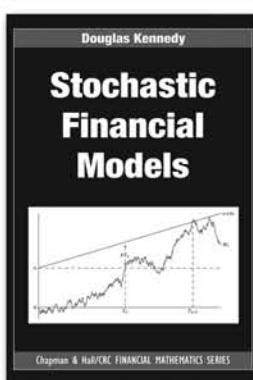
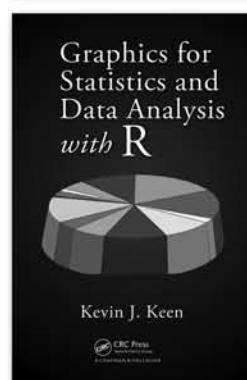
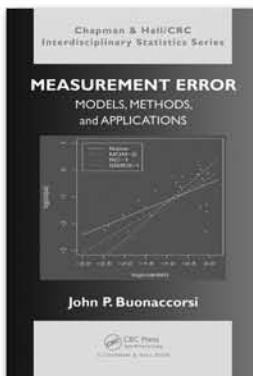
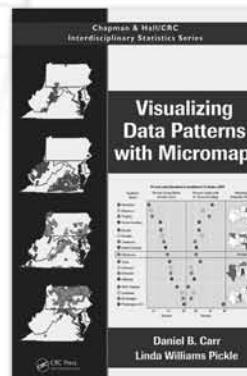
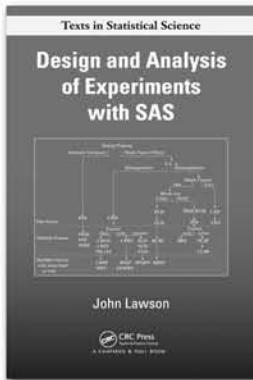
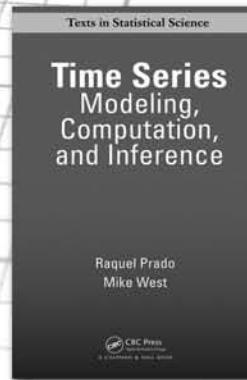
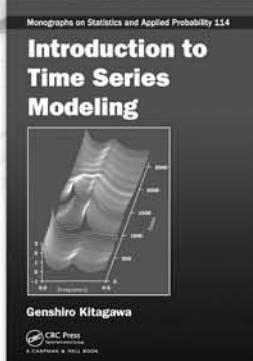
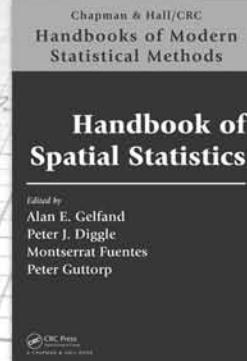
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Health Policy Statistics

Honors Go to Ash, Zaslavsky, and Elliott

The Health Policy Statistics section presented its inaugural Mid-career Excellence Award and Long-term Excellence Award on January 21 during the keynote session of the Eighth International Conference on Health Policy Statistics, at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC.

Arlene S. Ash of the University of Massachusetts Medical School and **Alan M. Zaslavsky** of Harvard University received the section's highest honor—the Long-term Excellence Award—recognizing their outstanding leadership and sustained contribution to the development and application of statistical methods in health-care policy and health services research, and for service to the section. **Marc N. Elliott** of RAND received the Mid-career Excellence Award for his contributions to developing statistical methods, and for continuing achievement at the frontier of statistical practice and research in health-care policy and health-services research.

Arlene Ash is chief of the Division of Biostatistics and Health Services Research in the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She has developed internationally adopted methods for calculating fair payments to health-care providers; explored the causes and correlates of health-care disparities; developed efficient sampling techniques for identifying systemic health delivery problems; and written and taught extensively about the key role of risk adjustment in understanding health-care quality and cost.

Ash has served the profession in many ways, including as co-chair of the Sixth International Conference on Health Policy Statistics in 2005, vice-chair of ASA's Committee on Scientific and Public Affairs, and chair of its Subcommittee on Electoral Integrity.



Ash



Zaslavsky



Elliott

Ash is co-founder of DxCG Inc., a predictive modeling health informatics company, now part of Verisk Health. She is an ASA Fellow as well as a Fellow of Academy Health.

Alan Zaslavsky is professor of health-care policy (statistics) in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. His main areas of research work have been innovative applications of hierarchical modeling, small-area estimation, applied Bayesian methodology, and microsimulation. He is perhaps best known for his contributions to the development, implementation, and analysis of large-scale surveys, including leadership in the Consumer Assessments of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) surveys.

Zaslavsky has served on many national panels on census methodology, small-area estimation, and measurement and reporting of quality and disparities for the Institute of Medicine and the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Academy of Sciences. An ASA Fellow, he has served in section offices. He also is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute and a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences.

Marc Elliott is senior statistician at RAND Health, where his research work focuses on consumer evaluation of health care, health-care access and satisfaction, disparities and measurement,

and survey methodology. He has made important contributions to the statistical and health policy literature in more than 150 published articles.

Elliott is the principal investigator of the CMS Medicare CAHPS Analysis project, and he has played a leadership role on CAHPS projects since 1996. He has led a series of papers developing indirect estimation methodology for inferring race/ethnicity and accompanying methodology for estimating racial/ethnic disparities in the absence of self-reported race/ethnicity. He has also been a key contributor to a variety of health policy research on critical issues such as stress reactions after terrorist attacks, mental health of refugees, and adolescent health.

The 2010 Health Policy Statistics Section Awardees were selected from a large roster of nominees by five judges: Bonnie Ghosh-Dastidar (RAND, 2009 HPSS chair); A. James O'Malley (Harvard, 2008 HPSS chair); Thomas E. Love (Case Western Reserve, 2010 HPSS chair); Joseph Cappelleri (Pfizer, 2008 ICHPS co-chair); and Christopher Schmid (Tufts, 2008 ICHPS co-chair). These awards will be presented at the Ninth International Conference on Health Policy Statistics in Cleveland, Ohio, this fall. All HPSS members are encouraged to respond to a Spring 2011 call for nominations (including self-nominations). ■

Hal Varian to Speak at the Economic Outlook Luncheon

Section is also cosponsor of the Zellner prize with Thomson Reuters



Varian

and public policy. He also holds academic appointments at the University of California, Berkeley, in three departments: business, economics, and information management.

Varian has published numerous papers in economic theory, industrial organization, financial economics, econometrics, and information economics. He is the author of two major economics textbooks that have been translated into 22 languages; he co-authored a best-selling book on business strategy, *Information Rules: A Strategic Guide to the Network Economy*;

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Economic Outlook Luncheon speaker at this year's JSM will be Hal Varian, chief economist at Google, on the topic "Predicting the Present with Google Trends." Varian started at Google in 2002 as a consultant and has been involved in many aspects of the company, including auction design (all of Google's ads are sold by auction), econometric analysis, finance, corporate strategy,

and he wrote a monthly column for the *New York Times* from 2000 to 2007.

This promises to be an exciting and engaging session. We urge you to include this session, which has a \$40 fee, on your JSM registration. (If you have already registered, you can still add this to your registration.)

Thomson Reuters New Cosponsor of the Zellner Award

Thomson Reuters will be cosponsoring the 2010 and 2011 Zellner Thesis Award along with the Section of Business and Economic Statistics, in conjunction with the *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics (JBES)*. This award is named for Arnold Zellner, past chair of the Business and Economic Statistics Section, past president of the ASA, and founding editor of *JBES*. This award is for the best PhD thesis addressing an applied problem in either business or economics statistics, and it is intended to recognize outstanding work completed by promising young researchers in the field. The winner of the award, which consists of a \$1,500 cash prize, will be announced at the JSM in August, and a portion of the winning thesis is eligible for publication in *JBES*. ■

Join Us for JSM 2010 in Vancouver, British Columbia



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Visit the JSM web site at
www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/registration

Connect with your colleagues and take advantage of hundreds of sessions about the state of the art of statistics this summer in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Section Readies for 2010 Conferences

Will Guthrie, JRC Organizing Committee

The 17th Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology and the 27th Quality and Productivity Research Conference will be held jointly at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland, May 25–27.

The guest of honor will be Vijay Nair of the University of Michigan. He will be recognized for his many contributions to the practice of industrial statistics and service to the statistical community. Other plenary speakers include Stephen Fienberg from Carnegie Mellon University, speaking on opportunities for statisticians to contribute to forensic science; Bradley Jones of JMP, giving a talk titled “Designed Experiments That Changed the World”; and Diane Lambert of Google, presenting work on an automated system for measuring the effectiveness of web display ad campaigns from observational data.

The invited program includes 18 sessions on experiment design, process control, reliability, and other topics of interest to statisticians in the physical and engineering sciences. This year’s “Randy Sitter Technometrics Session” was organized by David Steinberg of Tel Aviv University, and the speakers will be Haipeng Shen from the University of North Carolina and Adrian Raftery from the University of Washington. Shen’s talk is titled “On Modeling and Forecasting Time Series of Smooth Curves,” and Raftery will present a talk discussing “Online Prediction Under Model Uncertainty via Dynamic Model Averaging: Application to a Cold Rolling Mill.”

For further information visit www.amstat-online.org/sections/qp/qprc/2010.

SPES Roundtables

Kary Myers, SPES Program Chair-elect

SPES is pleased to sponsor three roundtables at the 2010 JSM covering an excellent collection of topics:

Christine M. Anderson-Cook of Los Alamos National Laboratory will bring her insights to a discussion on “Balancing Competing Objectives for a Good Designed Experiment,” in which she considers the practical trade-offs involved between trusting our knowledge of a system and recognizing that we might not have correctly or completely captured the characteristics of the system. This roundtable will start at 12:30 p.m.

Alexander Kolovos of SAS Institute will consider stochastic modeling of solar radiation and wind fields when he leads a discussion of “Innovations in Spatiotemporal Analysis for Renewable Energy Research.” This roundtable will provide a venue in which participants can share related methodologies and facilitate a connection between academia and industry. The roundtable will start at 7 a.m.

Dan Nordman of Iowa State will lead a roundtable and share his experience with “Orientation Data Analysis in



Roundtables from JSM 2009 in Washington, DC.

Physical Sciences,” including development of models for directional data (like 2-d wind directions) and for 3x3 rotation matrices (like crystal orientations in metal surfaces). The discussion will range from the science that generates orientation data to the statistical methodologies that have been applied to these problems. The roundtable will start at 7 a.m.

Check out the JSM 2010 online program for more detailed descriptions of the roundtable topics. Each roundtable is limited to 10 people, so please register early. Note that SPES has some scholarships available for students to attend one of these SPES-sponsored roundtables; contact Kary Myers at kary@lanl.gov.

SPES Short Course

Tena Katsaounis, SPES Education Chair

If you are attending the Joint Statistical Meetings this year, mark your calendar for the short course “Monte Carlo and Bayesian Computation with R,” by Jim Albert and Maria Rizzo. This course was offered successfully at the 2009 JSM, and SPES is excited to sponsor it again this year. Details about the course will be posted at www.amstat.org/sections/spe and www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010.

Albert and Rizzo are professors in the department of mathematics and statistics at Bowling Green State University. Albert has written several texts on Bayesian modeling and computation. He has taught short courses on ordinal data modeling at JSM (with Val Johnson) and on the use of sports in teaching statistics. Rizzo regularly teaches a doctoral-level course in statistical computing and has recently published a text on statistical computing using R.

This course is intended for statisticians who are interested in using the R system to design Monte Carlo experiments to assess the properties of statistical procedures. Also, the course is helpful for those who wish to learn about the use of R as an environment for Bayesian computations. ■



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Quality and Productivity

Q&P Announces Short Course Offerings and Invited Program for JSM

At the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, the ASA Section on Quality and Productivity is sponsoring two invited sessions and three roundtable events.

Martha Gardner has organized a session titled "Statistical Engineering: An Idea Whose Time Has Come," inviting speakers Ronald Snee, Geoff Vining, Bill Parr, and Roger Hoerl. These speakers will discuss how both the profession and those it serves may benefit from transitioning the view of statistics as a pure science to an engineering one. A panel including Douglas Montgomery, Peter Goos, and Rachel T. Johnson was invited by Dana Krueger to provide a discussion, "Future Developments in Experimental Design." These panelists will cover potential research areas such as computer and choice experiments as well as optimal designs in both linear and nonlinear problems.

Roundtables provide excellent opportunities for networking and discussion of a relevant statistical topic while enjoying a meal with colleagues in the profession. Julia O'Neill will lead a roundtable discussion on "Designing Experiments for Biopharmaceutical Process Development." William Notz, along with other participants, will discuss the basic ideas behind computer experiments in "What You Always Wanted to Know About Computer Experiments but Were Afraid to Ask." And Hadley Wickham will guide the participant's eye to sound concepts when "Visualizing Data."

Call for Short Courses

All three annual conferences involving the ASA Section on Quality and Productivity offer short courses. The section is always interested in receiving proposals for short courses you may have

or would like to develop. We would also appreciate hearing about short courses you would like to attend or have seen in other venues that may still be appropriate at one of the aforementioned conferences. Please contact Reid Landes at rlandes@uams.edu.

Fall Technical Conference

The 54th annual Fall Technical Conference will take place in Birmingham, Alabama, October 7–8. "Quality and Statistics: The Engines of Success" is the theme. Session and short course information can be found at <http://cba.ua.edu/ftc2010>.

Joint Research Conference

From May 25–27 in Gaithersburg, Maryland, the 27th annual Quality and Productivity Research Conference and 17th annual Spring Research Conference join together to offer a wide range of technical sessions covering topics in the design and analysis of experiments as well as reliability, forecasting, and other topics useful to statisticians and quality control professionals. On Monday, May 24, the day before the conference begins, Ronald Snee and Roger Hoerl will provide a highly interactive short course on how to move "From Statistical Consultant to Effective Leader." Speaking from vast experience, these two statistically minded leaders will teach what management needs and expects leaders to be, expose some barriers that can hinder statisticians from becoming leaders, discuss skills not typically taught in statistical training, and provide in-class opportunities to solidify the material. Registration is open for both the short course and conference; see www.amstat-online.org/sections/qp/qprc/2010 for more details. ■

Section Gears Up for 2010 JSM

Edited by Page Moore, Biometrics Section Publications Officer

The Biometrics Section is proud to sponsor one continuing education course and four invited sessions at this year's Joint Statistical Meetings.

Continuing Education Course: Regression Modeling Strategies—August 1

Frank Harrell Jr. will give a one-day short course on regression modeling strategies. He is professor and chair, department of biostatistics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, in Nashville, Tennessee. Regression models are frequently used to develop diagnostic, prognostic, and health resource utilization models in clinical, health services, outcomes, pharmacoeconomic, and epidemiologic research, and in a multitude of nonhealth-related areas. Regression models are also used to adjust for patient heterogeneity in randomized clinical trials, to obtain tests that are more powerful and valid than unadjusted treatment comparisons.

Models must be flexible enough to fit nonlinear and nonadditive relationships. However, unless the sample size is enormous, the approach to modeling must avoid common problems with data mining or data dredging that result in overfitting and a failure of the predictive model to validate on new subjects.

All standard regression models have assumptions that must be verified for the model to have power to test hypotheses and to predict accurately. Of the principal assumptions (linearity, additivity, distributional), this short course will emphasize methods for assessing the first two. Practical but powerful tools are presented for validating model assumptions and presenting model results. This course provides methods for estimating the shape of the relationship between predictors and response.

The first part of the course presents the following elements of multivariable predictive modeling for a single response variable: using regression splines to relax linearity assumptions, perils of variable selection and overfitting, where to spend degrees of freedom, shrinkage, imputation of missing data, data reduction, and interaction surfaces. Then a default overall modeling strategy will be described, with an eye toward "safe data mining." This is followed by methods for graphically understanding models (e.g., using nomograms) and using resampling to estimate a model's likely performance on new data.

Participants should have a good working knowledge of multiple regression and should consider reading the following articles in advance:

Harrell, Lee, and Mark, *Stat in Med* 15:361–387, 1996.

Spanos, Harrell, and Durack, *JAMA* 262:2700–2707, 1989.



Lookout Harbour Center in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Some participants may want to read chapters 1–5 and 10 of the instructor's book, *Regression Modeling Strategies* (Springer, 2001). See <http://biostat.mc.vanderbilt.edu/rms> for more background information.

Invited Sessions

In addition, the Biometrics Section is sponsoring an exciting program of invited sessions and talks spanning a broad range of topics in biostatistics. The titles and organizers of the invited sessions are:

- "Statistical Evaluation of Markers Used to Select Treatment," Margaret Pepe, University of Washington
- "Study Design and Statistical Analysis Challenges in Women's Health Studies," Marcia Ciol, University of Washington
- "Evaluation of Risk Prediction," Shulamith Gross, Baruch College
- "Getting More from Genome-Wide Association Studies," Mitchell Gail, National Cancer Institute

The section thanks Jerry Heatley, our JSM Continuing Education Chair, and Hormuzd Katki, our JSM Program Chair, for organizing these courses and sessions. Check the online program at the 2010 JSM web site for updates on locations and times. ■

Biopharmaceutical FDA/DIA Statistics Forum

The FDA/DIA statistics forum will take place April 18–21 in Bethesda, Maryland. The forum provides a venue to discuss important statistical issues associated with the development and review of therapeutic drugs and biologics. The meeting is intended to be an annual, open dialogue to discuss FDA's issues, initiatives, and guidance—emphasizing the statistical and regulatory challenges.

The conference is an opportunity for statisticians, clinicians, and other interested professionals from industry, academia, CROs, and government agencies to learn about and assess current and emerging statistical methodologies and quantitative approaches for developing evidence of the efficacy and safety of new drug and biologic therapeutic products.

This year's featured topics include:

- Good meta-analysis practices
- Meta-analysis to evaluate cardiovascular risks
- FDA guidance on noninferiority

- Issues associated with meta-analysis for margin justification
- Modeling and simulation for quantitative decisionmaking in drug development
- Challenges in developing tailored therapies by subgroup identification
- Using CDISC/ADaM to create analysis-ready data sets
- Collaborative environments for statistical methodology development – the wiki way
- Comparative effectiveness research

The target audience for the conference includes statisticians, clinicians, epidemiologists, drug safety professionals, and regulatory and medical communication scientists.

Visit the conference web site at www.diahomes.org and search for the conference under the Conference/Meetings tab for details or contact Ellen.Diegel@diahomes.org. This conference is not cosponsored by the ASA Biopharmaceutical Section.

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Corporate Sponsorship Program

Again this year, the section is indebted to our corporate sponsors for their generous support of our ongoing programs and activities.

With more than 2,000 members, the Biopharmaceutical Section is one of the largest and most active sections within the ASA. Thanks to the help and support of our corporate sponsors, we have provided unique and substantial contributions to our members and the biopharmaceutical community at large. We are able to sponsor or cosponsor several professional meetings throughout the year, including JSM sessions and the FDA/industry workshop. We are also able to provide cash awards for the Student Paper Awards competition and Best Contributed Paper competition at the Joint Statistical Meetings.

Invitations to become corporate sponsors are mailed out in the first quarter of each year. Any company interested in becoming a corporate sponsor can contact the chair of the Corporate Sponsorship Committee, Russ Helms, at Russ_Helms@RhoWorld.com. ■

SPAIG Offers Exciting JSM Session

Statistical Partnerships among Academe, Industry, and Government (SPAIG) is proud to announce that its 2010 Invited Session includes nationally renowned statisticians. The talks in the session are selected to cover a variety of topics of interest to statisticians. The session is titled "SPAIG and the ASA Strategic Plan." Presenters and the titles of their talks are as follows:

Fritz Scheuren: The Cross-disciplinary Nature of ASA and its Evolution Over Time: Some Historical Highlights

Christine M. Anderson-Cook: An Overview of the ISU-LANL Collaboration: Research and Impact

Ji Zhang: From Theory to Application: How Can We Improve Further

William B. Smith: SPAIG and the ASA Strategic Plan

Charles Yun Tan and Boris Iglewicz: The Value and Need of Academic-Industry Partnerships: Two Case Studies

Robert N. Rodriguez: Partnering for the Profession: The Role of SPAIG in ASA's Strategic Plan

The SPAIG committee invites the 2010 JSM attendees to this session. Please check the JSM web site at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/index.cfm> for time and location.

Section a Presence in Workshop and Meeting Sessions

Jun Zhu, ENVR Publications Chair

The ENVR section hosts the workshop "Space-Time Statistics to Evaluate the Impacts of Climate on Health and Renewable Energy" October 14–16 at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado.

This workshop covers state-of-the-art applications and statistical methods for assessing the impacts of climate change on health and renewable energy. Sessions on applications include recent advances in climate-change research, impacts on human health, and challenges in development and penetration of renewable energy. The spatiotemporal data collected in health and energy applications present some interesting and challenging statistical problems, such as modeling of space-time correlation, synthesis of data from multiple sources, and assessment of uncertainties. Technical sessions will cover recent developments in space-time statistical methods, Bayesian methodology, and extreme value analysis. A one-day short course will be offered October 14, and there will be a poster session.

For more information, visit www.stat.purdue.edu/envr2010 or contact Amanda S. Hering, Mathematical and Computer Sciences Department, Colorado School of Mines, at ahering@mines.edu, or Bo Li, Department of Statistics, Purdue University, at boli@purdue.edu.

2010 WNAR/IMS Annual Meeting

Section members Lisa Ganio and Alix Gitelman have organized two interesting sessions for the 2010 annual meeting of the Western North American

Region of the International Biometric Society (WNAR) and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS).

"Statistical Methods in Forestry." Speakers will be Ashley Steel, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station; Bianca Eskelson, Oregon State University; and David Marshall, Weyerhaeuser. Discussant will be Ganio, of Oregon State University.

"Spatial Dependence in Ecological Data." Speakers will be Gitelman, of Oregon State University; Ganio; Kathi Irvine, Montana State University; and Lisa Madsen, Oregon State University.

The meeting will be June 20–23 at the Seattle, Washington, campuses of the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. For more information visit www.biostat.washington.edu/wnar2010. ■

The advertisement features three large, bold module names: PASS, GEES, and NCSS, each with a brief description below it. PASS is associated with 'Power Analysis and Sample Size'. GEES is associated with 'Microarray Analysis'. NCSS is associated with 'Statistical Analysis and Graphics'. Below the module descriptions is a group of six diverse professionals (three men and three women) in business attire, all raising their right fists in a celebratory gesture. In the center of the group is a speech bubble containing the text 'PASS 2008 Upgrade Now Available!'. At the bottom left, contact information is provided: 'sales@ncss.com' and '1-800-898-6109'. At the bottom right, the website 'www.ncss.com' is listed along with the NCSS logo, which includes the tagline 'Envision • Design • Discover • Describe'.

Chapter to Sponsor Invited Sessions on Climate Change

The Council of Chapters is sponsoring two invited sessions at the 2010 JSM featuring diverse scientific applications of statistics. One session highlights statistical opportunities in large-scale international science endeavors. The other showcases the work of several Vancouver statisticians exploring the impact of climate change on British Columbia's forests.

Big Science: Opportunities for Statisticians in the World's Most Massive Projects

Organizer and chair: Kary Myers, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

From atom smashes to gene sequences, huge collaborative endeavors generate some of the most exciting scientific data and developments in the world today. Often called "big science," these massive projects combine big machinery, big laboratories, big computing power, and big budgets. In many cases, big science also produces big data sets, offering many opportunities for statistical insights.

In this session, scientists will introduce the technical context and statistical challenges of three big-science efforts: the hunt for the Higgs boson with the Large Hadron Collider (Isabel Trigger, TRIUMF); the mission of the Mars Science

Laboratory Rover to assess whether Mars can support microbial life (Sam Clegg, LANL); and the discovery and characterization of Earth-approaching objects like asteroids and comets by way of the Pan-STARRS digital sky survey (Alex Szalay, Johns Hopkins University).

The BC Forest Resource in a Changing Climate

Organizer and chair: Rick Routledge, Simon Fraser University

British Columbia forests are facing unprecedented change. As the last century wound down, the forests were the focus of high-profile protests over forest management practices. Yet as the current century unfolds, massive new threats are emerging. Mountain pine beetles have devastated vast tracts of lodgepole pine, and wildfires have swept down dry hillsides to threaten valley-bottom communities.

Warming temperatures are possible contributing factors. Two of the three speakers will assess scientific evidence for this hypothesized influence. The third will report on investigations on extracting greater benefit from the threatened forest resources.

We hope you'll add these sessions to your JSM plans. Visit the JSM 2010 web site to view the preliminary online program at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/index.cfm. ■

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For more information about these events, visit www.amstat.org/dateliner. Announcements are accepted from educational and not-for-profit organizations only. Commercial enterprises should contact the ASA Advertising Department at advertise@amstat.org.

* Indicates events sponsored by the American Statistical Association or one of its sections, chapters, or committees

»» Indicates events posted since the previous issue

Sharon Yeatts, Jordan Elm, Yuko Palesch, Kelly Hunt, Renee Martin, Betsy Hill, Emily Kistner-Griffin, Andrew Skol, and Andrew Lawson. For more information, visit http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/dbel/seminars/Summer%20Institute/SummerInstitute_Doc09.pdf or contact Andrew Lawson, 135 Cannon Street, Charleston, SC 29425; (843) 876-1865; lawsonab@musc.edu.

»»10–11—4th Statistical Workshop on PLS (Partial Least Squares) Developments, Paris, France

This year's workshop features scholars in several domains at the forefront of experimental research. The event is jointly organized and sponsored by the ESSEC Business School of Paris (www.essec.edu) and the SUPELEC Engineering School of Paris (www.supelec.fr). It takes place at SUPELEC on May 10–11 and addresses the theme "PLS and Related Methods for Cutting-Edge Research in Experimental Sciences: Methodological Advances and Challenging Applications." This event has the scientific sponsorship of Société Française de Statistique (SFdS, www.sfds.asso.fr) and its group on Data Mining et Apprentissage. Participation in the workshop is open to all researchers and practitioners. It is free but compulsory for organizational purposes. Deadline for registering is April 26. Contact Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi, ESSEC Business School of Paris, Cergy Pontoise, International 95021, France; +0033 1 3443 3656; vinzi@essec.edu.

»»10–14—Forecasting: A Five-Day Class, Washington, DC

The Info-Metrics Institute and Department of Economics of American University are sponsoring two upcoming summer program courses on forecasting with Graham Elliott. The purpose of the program in applied econometrics is to provide students, researchers, and faculty with state of the art econometric methods for analyzing data in the social sciences. Each day of the weeklong course consists of morning lectures that develop the basic concepts and philosophy as well as their applications to real economic problems and data. Each afternoon, these methods will be applied and practiced in the computer lab. These daily tutorials and work in the computer lab provide students with

2010

April

25–27—22nd Annual Kansas State University Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture, Manhattan, Kansas

This conference will bring together statisticians from academia, industry, and government to discuss ideas and advances in the application of statistics to solve agricultural research problems. A keynote speaker, workshop, and series of contributed papers and poster presentations will be included. For more information, visit www.ksu.edu/stats/agstat.conference or contact John Boyer, Department of Statistics, Dickens Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506; (785) 532-0518; jboyer@ksu.edu.

»»27—Info-Metrics in the Natural Sciences and Its Implications for the Social Sciences, Washington, DC

This workshop will lay out the basics of info-metrics in the natural sciences, study the state of information-theoretic estimation and data analysis in areas of the natural sciences, discuss the basic philosophy of information processing, and then discuss the implications of info-metrics in the natural sciences to the social sciences in general and to economics, econometrics, and finance in particular. Contact Amos Golan, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016; (202) 885-3783; info-metrics@american.edu, www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/index.cfm.

29–5/1—2010 SIAM International Conference on Data Mining, Columbus, Ohio

This conference will provide a venue for

researchers to present their work in a peer-reviewed forum. It also provides an ideal setting for graduate students and others new to the field to learn about cutting-edge research by hearing outstanding invited speakers and attending tutorials (included with conference registration). A set of focused workshops also will be held on the last day. Conference proceedings will be published in archival form and made available on the SIAM web site. For more information, visit www.siam.org/meetings/sdm10 or contact Amol Ghosh, 1101 Kitchawan Road, RT 134, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598; (914) 945-2193; aghosh@us.ibm.com.

May

1—Workshop on Link Analysis in Adversarial Data Mining, Columbus, Ohio

Papers are being accepted for this workshop, which will be held with the 2010 SIAM Data Mining Conference. Submissions should be emailed to abadia@louisville.edu. See www.siam.org/meetings/sdm10/submissions.php for submission details. For more information contact Antonio Badia, J.B. Speed 112 CECS Department, Louisville, KY 40292; (502) 852-0478; abadia@louisville.edu.

3–7—Summer Institute: Workshops in Research Methodology, Charleston, South Carolina

This series of two-day workshops will include Bayesian Biostatistics (May 3–4), Analysis of Genetic Association Studies (May 3–4), Design of Early Phase Clinical Trials (May 6–7), and Analysis of Complex Sample Survey Data (May 6–7). Presenters include Valerie Durkalski, Mulugeta Gebregziabher,

hands on experience in using these methods with real data. Each course in the program is open to students who have completed at least a year of econometrics at the PhD level, to professional economists, researchers who work in government agencies, nongovernmental organizations and in the private market. The text for each class will be announced prior to the class and will include a textbook and/or a reader consisting of a collection of papers. Classes begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 or 5 p.m. (with coffee and lunch breaks). To register visit www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/econometrics.cfm. For questions contact Aisha Malik, malik@american.edu; (202) 885-3770.

***14—ASA's Cleveland Chapter Spring Conference. An Introduction to Multivariate Methods, Cleveland, Ohio**

Many common uses of multivariate statistical methodologies have similar roots. This seminar will provide an overview of multivariate methods, including data matrices and vectors, estimates of mean vectors, and sample covariance and correlation matrices. It will introduce several of the most popular and useful techniques including principal component analysis and factor analysis. Discriminant analysis will also be covered using both traditional discriminant methods and logistic regression. Examples and statistical computing software will be used to illustrate the techniques considered. This will be a daylong presentation. Registration form and more information are at www.bio.ri.ccf.org/ASA/cspring.html. Contact Jerry Moreno, Department of Mathematics, John Carroll University, University Heights, OH 44118; (216) 397-4681; moreno@jcu.edu; www.bio.ri.ccf.org/ASA/cspring.html.

19–22—Conference on Nonparametric Statistics and Statistical Learning, Columbus, Ohio

This conference will bring together researchers in nonparametrics and statistical learning from academia, industry, and government in an atmosphere focused on the development of both statistical theory and methods. The areas are broadly defined, with nonparametrics encompassing distribution-free statistics, rank-based and robust statistics, Bayesian nonparametric methods, permutation-based methods, nonparametric regression, and density estimation. Statistical

learning includes a range of methods focused on the general goals of discovery, classification, and prediction. Six prominent researchers will present plenary talks relating to both fields. There also will be eight contributed paper sessions and two contributed poster sessions where junior investigators and graduate students are expected to participate. For more information, visit www.stat.osu.edu/-nsl2010 or contact Steven MacEachern, Department of Statistics, The Ohio State University, 1958 Neil Avenue, Cockins Hall, Room 404, Columbus, OH 43210-1247; (614) 292-5843; snm@stat.osu.edu.

>>20–21—Statistical Methods and Life History Analysis, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo will host "Statistical Methods and Life History Analysis: A Conference in Celebration of the Contributions of Jack Kalbfleisch and Jerry Lawless to the Statistical Sciences." See www.stats.uwaterloo.ca/statconf2010 for a list of confirmed speakers and the registration form. Contact Anissa Anniss, 200 University Avenue W., Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1, Canada; (519) 888-4567, ext. 35501; aanniss@uwaterloo.ca; www.stats.uwaterloo.ca/statconf2010.

20–22—Statistical Analysis of Neural Data (SAND5), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

This workshop series is concerned with analysis methods for neural signals from sources such as EEG, fMRI, MEG, 2-Photon, and extracellular recordings. It aims to define important problems in neuronal data analysis and useful strategies for attacking them, foster communication between experimental neuroscientists and those trained in statistical and computational methods, and encourage young researchers to present their work and interact with senior colleagues. Travel funds are expected to be available. For details, visit sand.stat.cmu.edu or contact Rob Kass, Department of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; (412) 268-8723; kass@stat.cmu.edu.

23–26—38th Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada, Québec City, Québec

This conference will bring together academic, government, and industrial

researchers as well as users of statistics and probability. Featured will be workshops and invited and contributed sessions on all areas of statistics and probability. About 450 statisticians are expected to participate. For details, contact Thierry Duchesne, Université Laval, Département de mathématiques et de statistique, Pavillon Vachon, Québec, Quebec G1K 7P4, Canada; (418) 656-2131, ext. 5077; thierry.duchesne@mat.ulaval.ca.

***24–26—33rd Annual Midwest Biopharmaceutical Statistics Workshop, Muncie, Indiana**

Plenary speakers will address how the role of statistics is adapting to recent changes within the pharmaceutical industry and the impact of these changes. Invited talks will follow a similar theme and be presented in four parallel tracks: clinical, discovery/preclinical, nonclinical, and post-approval. Abstracts for the poster session must be submitted by April 19; students are encouraged to submit posters for the Charlie Sampson Award. The workshop will be preceded by a half-day short course. For more information, visit www.mbswon-line.com or contact Melvin Munsaka, One Takeda Pkwy., Deerfield, IL 60015; (847) 582-3533; mmunsaka@tgrd.com.

>>24–28—Bayesian Econometrics – A Short Course, Washington, DC

The Info-Metrics Institute and the Department of Economics of American University announce their upcoming summer program course, "Bayesian Econometrics and Decisionmaking" with John Geweke, University of Iowa and UTS, Australia. The purpose of the summer program in applied econometrics is to provide students, researchers, and faculty with state-of-the-art econometric methods for analyzing data in the social sciences. Each day of the weeklong course consists of morning lectures that develop the basic concepts and philosophy as well as their applications to real economic problems and data. Each afternoon, these methods will be applied and practiced in the computer lab. Each course in the program is open to students who have completed at least a year of econometrics at the PhD level, to professional economists, researchers who work in government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the private market. The text for each class will

be announced prior to the class and will include a textbook and/or a reader with a collection of papers. Classes begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 or 5 p.m. (with coffee and lunch breaks). To register visit www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/econometrics.cfm. For questions contact Aisha Malik, malik@american.edu; (202) 885-3770.

***25–26—Quantitative Methods in Defense and National Security 2010, Fairfax, Virginia**

This conference will promote collaboration between users who have quantitative defense and national security problems and quantitative professionals such as statisticians, mathematicians, operations researchers, and engineers. Papers are wanted on quantitative methods that can be used to solve problems in defense and national security and that describe defense and national security data analysis problems. The program will consist of invited sessions, contributed presentations, and a special poster session. For more information, visit www.galaxy.gmu.edu/QMDNS2010 or contact Jeffrey Solka, 18444 Frontage Road, Suite 324, Code Q21, Dahlgren, VA 22448; (540) 653-1982; Jeffrey.Solka@navy.mil.

25–27—Joint Research Conference on Statistics in Quality, Industry, and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland

The Quality and Productivity Research Conference and the Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology will be held jointly at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The goal of the conference is to stimulate interdisciplinary research among statisticians, engineers, and physical scientists in quality and productivity, industrial needs, and the physical sciences. The conference will feature presentations on statistical issues and research approaches drawn from collaborative research. For more information, contact Will Guthrie, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8980, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8980; (301) 975-2854; will.guthrie@nist.gov.

June

3–4—Statistical Science: Making a Difference, Madison, Wisconsin

A series of events is planned to celebrate

the 50th anniversary of the founding of the department of statistics and its achievements in making a difference in statistics and the sciences through theory/methods and applications/practice. The main event will highlight major advances and emerging topics in statistical science during the last 25 years. For more information, visit www.stat.wisc.edu or contact Denise Roder, 1300 University Avenue, MSC 1220, Madison, WI 53706; (608) 262-2937; 50th@stat.wisc.edu.

5–8—IWMS 2010 –19th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics, Shanghai, China

This conference will stimulate research and foster the interaction of researchers in the interface between statistics and matrix theory. There will be invited and contributed papers. Potential participants should visit www1.shfc.edu.cn/iwms/index.asp for online registration and submission of abstracts. For details, visit the web site or contact Yonghui Liu, Shanghai Finance University, Shanghai, International 201209, China; IWMS2010@shfc.edu.cn.

***6–9—Southern Regional Conference on Statistics (SRCOS) 2010, Virginia Beach, Virginia**

This conference—including speakers, a workshop, and student poster presentations—will stimulate research and foster interaction among researchers. There is support available for student travel. The deadline for presentations and proposals is April 10. For more information, visit <http://sci.odu.edu/math/srcos2010> or contact Norou Diawara, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529; (757) 683-3886; ndiawara@odu.edu.

10–12—2010 International Symposium on Financial Engineering and Risk Management (FERM2010), Taipei, Taiwan

FERM2010 will allow academic researchers and industry practitioners to exchange state-of-the-art knowledge and discoveries in financial engineering and risk management as well as discuss the recent financial crisis, research interests, and industry trends. Keynote speakers will include Tim Bollerslev, Jay Dweck, and Harrison Hong. In addition, 15 invited sessions, 15 contributed sessions, and a poster session are planned. For more information,

visit www.fin.ntu.edu.tw/~ferm2010 or contact Program Committee, Center for Research in Econometric Theory and Applications, National Taiwan University, Taipei, International 106, Taiwan; +866-2-33661072; ferm2010.prog@gmail.com.

12–19—Statistical and Machine Learning Methods in Computational Biology, Lipari, Italy

Lectures will focus on new statistical challenges posed by deep sequencing techniques to inference and analysis of network structure that take into account the scale of data available. A series of tutorials also will be offered from introductory topics to statistics to probabilistic and machine learning methods. For more information, visit lipari.cs.unict.it/LipariSchool/Bio or contact Raffaele Giancarlo, Dipartimento di Matematica, Via Archirafi 34, Palermo, International 90123, Italy; +39 091 238 91067; raffaele@math.unipa.it.

16–18—45th Scientific Meeting of the Italian Statistical Society, Padua, Italy

The 2010 conference will include plenary, specialized, contributed, and poster sessions. These can be in any area of interest relevant to theoretical and applied statistics. For details, visit www.sis-statistica.it/meetings/index.php/sis2010/sis2010 or contact Patrizia Piacentini, Department of Statistical Sciences, via C. Battisti 241, Padova, International I-35121, Italy; segrorg@stat.unipd.it.

>>17–19—Classification Society Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri

This conference aims to bring together researchers from many disciplines (statistics, math, computer science, astronomy, medicine, business, library science, text clustering) working in classification and cluster analysis on methods development and applications. This is an informal friendly meeting on the best use of cluster/classification tools. Contact Bill Shannon, 660 S. Euclid Avenue, Box 8005, St. Louis, MO 63110; (314) 454-8356; wshannon@wustl.edu; www.classification-society.org/csna/csna.html.

20–23—ISF2010 –30th International Symposium on Forecasting, San Diego, California

This conference—attracting the world's leading forecasting researchers, practitioners, and students—will include keynote

speaker presentations, academic sessions, workshops, and social programs. For details, visit www.forecasters.org or contact Pam Stroud, 53 Tesla Avenue, Medford, MA 02155; (509) 357-5530; isf@forecasters.org.

>>28–7/1—Statistical Modeling and Inference for Networks (Statworks), Bristol, United Kingdom

Network structures arise in modeling a wide variety of phenomena in the engineering, natural, and social sciences. As researchers find networks a natural perspective for analyzing diverse sets of applications, an equally diverse set of methodologies emerges, ranging from highly tailored ad hoc solutions to broad attempts to capture the full generality of network inference. Each of these disparate paths contributes to our joint understanding of the scope of network-based models. Invited speakers include David Barber (UCL), Sanjeev Goyal (Cambridge), Eric Kolaczyk (Boston), Sean Meyn (Illinois), Brendan Murphy (University College Dublin), Stephane Robin (AgroParisTech), Michael Stumpf (Imperial), Stanley Wasserman (Indiana), Geoffrey West (Santa Fe), and Eddie Wilson (Bristol). The number of participants is limited. Abstracts must be submitted for both talks (approximately one page) and posters (one paragraph). Noncontributing attendees are also welcome, although space may be limited. All applications for attending the workshop and contributing a talk or a poster must be made via the web form at www.sustain.bris.ac.uk/ws-statworks/participation.html. Contact Azita Ghassemi, Department of Mathematics, University Walk, Bristol, International BS8 1TW, UK; +441173317188; statworks@bristol.ac.uk; www.sustain.bris.ac.uk/ws-statworks.

28–7/2—ICORS 2010, Prague, Czech Republic

The International Conference on Robust Statistics aims to be a forum for the development and application of robust statistical methods. It is an opportunity to meet, exchange knowledge, and build scientific contacts with others interested in the subject. For more information, visit icors2010.karlin.mff.cuni.cz or contact Jana Jureckova, Department of Statistics, Sokolovska 83, Prague 8, International CZ-186 75, Czech Republic; icors2010@karlin.mff.cuni.cz.

29–7/1—International Conference on Probability Distributions and Related Topics in Conjunction with NZSA Conference, Palmerston North, New Zealand

This international conference is devoted to all aspects of distribution theory and its applications, including discrete, univariate, and multivariate continuous distributions; copulas; extreme values; skewed distributions; conditionally specified distributions; and life distributions in engineering and survival analysis. For more information, visit http://nzsa_cdl_2010.massey.ac.nz or contact Narayanaswamy Balakrishnan, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Hamilton, International L8S 4K1, Ontario, Canada; (905) 525-9140, ext. 23420; bala@mcmaster.ca.

29–7/9—International Statistical Ecology Conference 2010, Canterbury, United Kingdom

In addition to invited and contributed speaker sessions, this conference will include a series of workshops. Visit www.ncse.org.uk/isec2010 or contact Alexa Laurence, University of Kent, Canterbury, International CT2 7NZ, UK; +01227 827253; a.f.laurence@kent.ac.uk.

30–7/2—2010 International Conference of Computational Statistics and Data Engineering, London, United Kingdom

For details, visit www.iaeng.org/WCE2010/ICCSDE2010.html or contact IAENG Secretariat, Unit 1, 1/F, 37-39 Hung To Road, Hong Kong, International, China; (852) 3169-3427; wce@iaeng.org.

July

4–9—IWSM 2010, Glasgow, United Kingdom

The 25th International Workshop on Statistical Modeling (IWSM 2010) will be hosted by the University of Glasgow in Scotland. For more information, contact Claire Ferguson, Department of Statistics, 15 University Gardens, Glasgow, International G12 8QW, Scotland; +0141 330 5023; c.ferguson@stats.gla.ac.uk.

>>5–8—International Workshop in Applied Probability 2010 – IWAP 2010, Madrid, Spain

This workshop is to bring together scientists to discuss the applications of probability

in any field. Participants are encouraged to submit their contributions to the *Journal of Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability*. A book of abstracts of presented articles will be at the workshop.

Plenary speakers include Paul Embrechts, Ricardo Fraiman, Montse Fuentes, Robin Pemantle, Víctor de la Peña, Michael Steele, and Mihail Zervos. The program committee includes leading scientists worldwide in diverse areas of research in probability. The organizers encourage the participation of young scientists, women, and minorities at this workshop, to be held at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Colmenarejo Campus, Spain. Contact Joseph Glaz, Department of Statistics, U-4120, 215 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT 06269-4120; (860)874-1677; joseph.glaz@uconn.edu; www.fundacion.uc3m.es/IWAP2010/Index.html.

***5–9—ISBIS-2010 (International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics), Slovenia**

The key themes of this conference are industrial applications of statistical image analysis, future directions for handling large and complex data sets, financial services, health services, quality and productivity improvement, and decisionmaking in business and industry. For more information, visit www.action-m.com/isbis2010 or contact Milena Zeithamlova, Vrsovicka 68 101 00, Prague, International 10, Czech Republic; +420 267 312 333; milena@action-m.com.

6–8—LASR 2010: High-Throughput Sequencing, Proteins, and Statistics, Leeds, United Kingdom

This workshop will focus on developments at the interface of statistical methodology and bioinformatics. For more information, visit www.maths.leeds.ac.uk/lasr2010 or contact Jochen Voss, Department of Statistics, University of Leeds, Leeds, International LS2 9JT, UK; workshop@maths.leeds.ac.uk.

11–13—Ninth International Conference on Ordered Statistical Data and Their Applications, Zagazig, Egypt

OSDA 2010 will provide an international forum for presentation and discussion of new results on ordered statistical data and reviews of existing literature. It will be dedicated to all aspects of ordered statistical data, including approximations;

bounds; characterizations; inequalities and their applications; stochastic ordering; statistical inference and prediction problems; censored data and survival analysis; applications of ordered data; reliability theory; entropies, information theory and optimization techniques; nonparametric and ranked set sampling techniques; numerical computations and simulations; Bayesian analysis techniques; and asymptotic theory. The conference language will be English. For more information, visit www.stat.osu.edu/~hnn/osda2010.html or contact Haikady Nagaraja, 402 Cockins Hall, 1958 Neil Avenue, Statistics Department, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210; (614) 292-6072; hnn@stat.osu.edu.

12–16—11th International Meeting on Statistical Climatology, Edinburgh, Scotland

This meeting is designed to promote good statistical practice in the atmospheric and climate sciences and enhance the lines of communication between the atmospheric and statistical science communities. The themes for this IMSC include analysis techniques for multimodel ensembles of climate simulations, understanding recent climate change and predicting the near-term future, extreme events, predictions of climate change relevant for impacts, reconstructing and understanding climate change over the Holocene, and statistical methods for the analysis of climate data. For more information, visit <http://ccma.seos.uvic.ca/imsc/11imsc.shtml> or contact Gabi Hegerl, Room 353, Grant Institute, The King's Buildings, Edinburgh, International EH8 9TA, Scotland; Gabi.Hegerl@ed.ac.uk.

12–23—SAMSI: 2010 Summer Program on Semiparametric Bayesian Inference: Applications in Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

The aims of the program and workshop are to identify the critical new developments of inference methods for pharmacokinetics (PK) and pharmacodynamics (PD) data, determine open challenges, and establish inference for PK and PD as an important motivating application area of nonparametric Bayes. For more information, visit www.samsi.info/programs/2010bayes-summer-program.shtml or contact Jamie Nunnally, P.O. Box 14006, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; (919) 685-9350; nunnally@niss.org.

>>20–23—The R User Conference, useR! 2010, Gaithersburg, Maryland

R user conference, useR! 2010 (www.R-project.org/useR-2010) will take place at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Following the successful previous conferences, this conference is focused on: (1) R as the 'lingua franca' of data analysis and statistical computing, (2) providing a platform for R users to discuss and exchange ideas on how R can be used to do statistical computations, data analysis, visualization and exciting applications in various fields, and (3) giving an overview of the new features of the rapidly evolving R project. Like predecessor conferences, the program will consist of two parts: invited lectures and user-contributed sessions. Prior to the conference, there will be tutorials on R, descriptions of which are available at www.R-project.org/useR-2010/tutorials. Contact Katharine Mullen, 503 Palmtree Drive, Unit 2, Gaithersburg, MD 20878; (301) 975-6890; katharine.mullen@nist.gov, www.r-project.org/useR-2010.

27–31—LinStat 2010, Tomar, Portugal

The aim of this conference is to bring together researchers sharing an interest in a variety of aspects of statistics and its applications to discuss current developments. There will be plenary talks and sessions with contributed talks, as well as a special session with talks by graduate students. For more information, visit www.linstat2010.ipt.pt or contact Francisco Carvalho, Estrada da Serra - Quinta do Contador, Tomar, International 2300-313, Portugal; +351249328100; fpcarvalho@ipt.pt.

***31–8/5—2010 Joint Statistical Meetings, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada**

JSM (Joint Statistical Meetings) is the largest gathering of statisticians held in North America. It is held jointly with the American Statistical Association, International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Statistical Society of Canada, International Indian Statistical Association, and International Chinese Statistical Association. Attended by more than 5,500 people, activities include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, continuing education courses, exhibit hall, placement service, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social

activities, and networking opportunities. For more information, visit www.amstat.org/meetings or contact ASA Meetings Department, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; (888) 231-3473; jsm@amstat.org.

August

5–7—16th ISSAT International Conference on Reliability and Quality in Design, Washington, DC

For more information, visit www.issatconferences.org or contact Conference Secretary, P.O. Box 1504, Piscataway, NJ 08855; rqd@issatconferences.org.

22–27—COMPSTAT 2010, Paris, France

This conference will cover the development and implementation of new statistical ideas, user experiences, and software evaluation. The program should appeal to software developers and anyone working in statistics who uses computers at a university, company, government agency, or research institute. For more information, visit www.compstat2010.fr or contact Gilbert Saporta, 292 rue Saint Martin, Paris, International 75003, France; +33140272268; gilbert.saporta@cnam.fr.

29–9/1—SAMSI: 2010–11 Program on Complex Networks, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

This program is built around network modeling and interference, flows on networks, network models for disease transmission, and dynamics of networks. For more information, visit www.samsi.info/workshops/index.shtml or contact Terri Nida, 19 TW Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; (919) 685-9350; info@samsi.info.

30–9/3—Prague Stochastics 2010, Prague, Czech Republic

Prague Stochastics 2010 is next in a series of international conferences on stochastics organized in Prague since 1956. The scientific program will be aimed at covering a wide range of stochastics, with special emphasis on the topics of this lively field that have been pursued in Prague. For more information, visit [www.utia.cas.cz/pragstoch2010](http://utia.cas.cz/pragstoch2010) or contact Lucie Fajfrova, Pod Vodarenskou vezi 4, Prague 8, International 18208, Czech Republic; pragstoch@utia.cas.cz.

September

12–15—SAMSI: 2010–11 Program on Analysis of Object Oriented Data Opening Workshop, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

Modern science is generating a need to understand and statistically analyze populations of increasingly complex types. Analysis of object oriented data (AOOD) is aimed at encompassing an array of such methods. For more information, visit www.samsi.info/programs/2010aoodprogram.shtml or contact Terri Nida, 19 TW Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; (919) 685-9350; info@samsi.info.

13–15—ENBIS 2010 – 10th Annual Conference of the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics, Antwerp, Belgium

This conference will include keynote lectures, invited and contributed sessions, workshops and pre- and post-conference courses. The social program will include a reception at Antwerp City Hall and dinners in the medieval cellars in downtown Antwerp and Marble Hall of the Antwerp Zoo. For more information, visit www.enbis.org or contact Peter Goos, Prinsstraat 13, Antwerp, International 2000, Belgium; +3232654059; peter.goos@ua.ac.be.

»13–17—RSS 2010 International Conference, Brighton & Hove, United Kingdom

The annual conference of the Royal Statistical Society seeks to bring together statisticians, researchers, analysts, and other users of statistics from across the UK and around the world to hear, digest and discuss the latest research and developments in the rich and varied world of statistics. The conference will feature leading international speakers on highly topical subjects. The main conference will open on September 14, with preconference courses, and workshops on September 13, at the Brighton Centre. Contact Paul Gentry, 12 Errol Street, London EC1Y 8LX, London, International EC1Y 8LX, UK; +020 7614 3918; conference@rss.org.uk; www.rss.org.uk/rss2010.

»19–22—Applied Statistics 2010 (AS2010), Ribno (Bled), Ljubljana, Slovenia

The conference, organized in the vicinity

of the beautiful Lake Bled, will provide an opportunity for researchers, data analysts, and other professionals to exchange their knowledge. Cross-discipline and applied paper submissions are welcome. Contact Andrej Blejec, Vecna pot 111, Ljubljana, International SI-1000, Slovenia; +386 59 232 789; info.as@nib.si; conferences.nib.si/AS2010.

»24–26—Info-Metrics: Theory and Application, Washington, DC

Discuss and study the latest developments of info-metrics across the sciences. Generally speaking, info-metrics promotes the study of information processing and optimal decision rules based on efficient use of information. Empirically, it deals with developing a unified class of improved information processing methods for understanding very small or large noisy data that may be ill-behaved or sampled from a poorly understood process. Conference topics include theory and methods and applications across the sciences. Examples include economics/econometrics (theory and applications), finance and risk management, philosophy of science, predictive games, natural sciences, and social sciences. Contact Amos Golan, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016; (202) 885-3783; info-metrics@american.edu; www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/conference/index.cfm.

October

20–22—International Conference on Modeling, Simulation, and Control 2010, San Francisco, California

This conference is held under the World Congress on Engineering and Computer Science, organized by the International Association of Engineers. For more information, visit www.iaeng.org/WCECS2010/ICMSC2010.html or contact IAENG Secretariat, Unit 1, 1/F, 37-39 Hung To Road, Hong Kong, International HK, Hong Kong; +852 3169 3427; wcecs@iaeng.org.

November

»8–12—17th Annual Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium, Hilton Head Island, Georgia

This symposium provides a forum for pharmaceutical, medical, and regulatory

science professionals to share timely and pertinent information concerning the application of biostatistics in biopharmaceutical environments. Contact Ruth Whitworth, P.O. Box 8015, Statesboro, GA 30460; (912) 478-7904; bass@georgiasouthern.edu.

»10–13—2010 American Evaluation Association (AEA) Annual Conference, San Antonio, Texas

The American Evaluation Association invites evaluators from around the world to attend its annual conference November 13 at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio. AEA's annual meeting is expected to bring together approximately 2,500 evaluation practitioners, academics, and students, in a collaborative, thought-provoking, and fun atmosphere. The conference is broken down into 44 topical strands that examine the field from the vantage point of a particular methodology, context, or issue of interest to the field as well as the Presidential Strand, highlighting this year's presidential theme of evaluation quality. Presentations may explore the conference theme or any aspect of the full breadth and depth of evaluation theory and practice. Contact Heidi Nye, 16 Sconticut Neck Road #290, Fairhaven, MA 02719; (888) 232-2275; info@eval.org; www.eval.org/eval2010/default.asp.

December

»5–10—International Biometric Conference, Florianopolis, Brazil

This conference will bring together approximately 800 statisticians and others interested in the development and application of statistical and mathematical theory and methods to the biosciences. The meeting program includes oral and poster presentations of methodological advances, applications to specific subject-matter challenges, and educational offerings. Special celebratory events are planned. For more information, visit www.rbras.org.br/ibcfloripa2010 or contact Dee Ann Walker, 1444 I Street NW, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 712-9049; info@tibs.org.

6–10—Australian Statistical Conference 2010, Fremantle, West Australia

Delegates from all areas of work in statistics will be encouraged to communicate their knowledge and expertise and join

world-class Australian and international statisticians to discuss new work. The theme for the 2010 conference, "Statistics in the West: Understanding Our World," provides opportunities for presentations on a range of topics. For more information, visit www.statsoc.org.au or contact Promaco Conventions, Unit 10, 22 Parry Avenue, Bateman, International 6150, Australia; +61 8 9332 2900; promaco@promaco.com.au.

2011

January

*5–7—2011 Living to 100 Symposium, Orlando, Florida

This conference, held by the Society of Actuaries, will include thought leaders from around the world who will share ideas and knowledge about aging, changes in survival rates and their impact on society, and observed and projected increases in aging populations. For more information, visit <http://livingto100.soa.org> or contact Jan Schuh, 475 N. Martingale Road, Suite 600, Schaumburg, IL 60173; jschuh@soa.org.

5–7—Fourth International IMS/ISBA Joint Meeting, Park City, Utah

A central theme of this conference is Markov chain Monte Carlo and related methods and applications. The conference also will feature plenary speakers Jeff Rosenthal, Nicky Best, and Michael Newton and six invited sessions. Nightly poster sessions will offer substantial opportunity for informal learning and interaction. Limited financial support for junior investigators is anticipated. The meeting will be accompanied by a satellite workshop on adaptive MCMC methods, intended to provide a snapshot of the methodological, practical, and theoretical aspects of an emerging group of methods that attempt to automatically optimize their performance for a given task. For details, visit madison.byu.edu/mcmc/index.html or contact Brad Carlin, MMC 303, Division of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, 420 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455; (612) 624-6646; brad@biostat.umn.edu.

May

10–13—International Conference on Design of Experiments (ICODEE-2011), Memphis, Tennessee

The goal of this conference is to bring together leading researchers in design and analysis of experiments, including combinatorial design, and practitioners in the pharmaceutical, chemometrics, physical, biological, medical, social, psychological, economic, engineering, and manufacturing sciences. The conference will focus on emerging areas of research in experimental design and novel innovations in traditional areas. For more information, visit www.msci.memphis.edu or contact Manohar Aggarwal, 373 Dunn Hall, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152; (901) 678-3756; maggarwl@memphis.edu.

June

20–24—Seventh International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability, Beijing, China

This international conference will focus on theory, methods, and applications of reliability models and associated inferential issues. For more information, visit www.mmr2011.cn or contact Lirong Cui, Beijing Institute of Technology, School of Management and Economics, Beijing, International PRC, China; +1 905 525 9140; Lirongcui@bit.edu.cn.

26–29—ICSA 2011 Applied Statistics Symposium, New York, New York

For more information, contact Wei Zhang, 900 Ridgebury Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877; (203) 791-6684; wei.zhang@boehringer-ingelheim.com.

30–7/3—Statistics 2011 Canada/IMST-2011-FIM XX, Montréal, Quebec

This conference is dedicated to all areas of mathematical and statistical sciences. In addition to traditional theoretical/applied areas, interdisciplinary research is encouraged. Historically, this conference has concentrated on applied and theoretical statistics, Bayesian statistics, bioinformatics, biostatistics, combinatorics, computer and information sciences, design and analysis of experiments, ergodic theory, functional analysis, graph theory, multivariate analysis, number theory, partial differential equations, and topology.

For more information, contact Yogendra Chaubey, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montréal, Quebec H3G 1M8, Canada; +1 514 848 2424, ext. 3258; stat2011@mathstat.concordia.ca.

July

»3–6—2nd IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meetings, Tokyo, Japan

This meeting series provides a forum for scientific communication and collaboration among researchers in Asia and the Pacific Rim. The program will cover a range of topics in statistics and probability, as well as recent developments and the state of the art in a variety of modern research topics and applications. For more information, contact Runze Li, Department of Statistics, The Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802-2111; (814) 865-1555; ril4@psu.edu.

*30–8/4—2011 Joint Statistical Meetings, Miami Beach, Florida

JSM is the largest gathering of statisticians held in North America, attended by more than 5,000 people. Activities include paper and poster presentations, panel sessions, continuing education courses, exhibit hall, career placement service, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities, and networking opportunities. For more information, visit www.amstat.org/meetings or contact ASA Meetings, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; (888) 231-3473; meetings@amstat.org.

September

»4–8—11th European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS) Conference, Coimbra, Portugal

Theoretical and practical papers covering all areas of business and industrial statistics are invited. For more information, visit www.enbis.org or contact Marco P. Seabra dos Reis, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Coimbra, Polo II, Rua Sílvio Lima, Coimbra, International 3030-790, Portugal; +351 239 798 700/727; marco@eq.uc.pt.

Professional Opportunity listings may not exceed 65 words, plus equal opportunity information. Ads must be received by the first of the preceding month to ensure appearance in the next issue (i.e., September 1 for the October issue). Ads received after the deadline will be held until the following issue.

Listings are shown alphabetically by state, followed by international listings. Vacancy listings may include the institutional name and address or be identified by number, as desired.

Professional Opportunities vacancies also will be published on the ASA's web site (www.amstat.org). Vacancy listings will appear on the web site for the entire calendar month. Ads may not be placed for publication in the magazine only; all ads will be published both electronically and in print.

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Employers are expected to acknowledge all responses resulting from publication of their ads. Personnel advertising is accepted only with the understanding that the advertiser does not discriminate among applicants on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap, or sexual orientation.

Also look for job ads on the ASA web site at www.amstat.org/jobweb.

Missouri

■ Tenure-track assistant professor, statistics. Seeking candidates with interests in both theoretical and applied statistics, along with strong computational skills. A statistics or biostatistics PhD required. Flexible starting date. Deadline April 1, 2010, although recruitment will continue until position is filled. See <http://stats.wustl.edu/> for application instructions. Women and underrepresented minorities encouraged to apply. Washington University is an equal opportunity employer. Employment eligibility verification required upon hire.

New Hampshire

■ MS Biostatistician, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice/Norris Cotton Cancer Center. Analyze medicare claims and other data supporting comparative effectiveness research; statistical consulting & computing/database support. SAS programming required; SPLUS/R, SQL, database & C programming skills desirable. 2 years experience, good communication skills. To apply send CV and 3 reference names: susan.j.white@dartmouth.edu; Susan White at 35 Centerra, Lebanon, NH 03766, www.dartmouth.edu, position#1010589. Dartmouth College is an AA/EOE.

New York

■ Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center has positions available for masters level biostatisticians. The successful applicant will engage in wide variety of collaborative projects w/medical investigators and statisticians. Projects involve the design, analysis and publication of clinical, laboratory or cancer prevention research. Qualifications include excellent programming skills, proficiency in database manipulation, and good verbal and written communication skills. Please email cover letter and CV to: EPIBIOSTATS@mskcc.org. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center is an AA/EOE.

North Carolina

■ The Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), a national institute in North Carolina, seeks Postdoctoral Fellows for 2010-2011. Fellows are typically appointed for two years, earn a very competitive salary, and receive exceptional mentoring. See

Maine

■ Postdoctoral opportunities in computational and systems biology in the Center for Genome Dynamics at The Jackson Laboratory (www.genomedynamics.org). Center investigators use computation, mathematical modeling and statistics, with a shared focus on the genetics of complex traits. Requires PhD (or equivalent) in quantitative field such as computer science, statistics, applied mathematics or in biological sciences with strong quantitative background. Programming experience recommended. Apply at www.jax.org/career. EOE.

Maryland

■ Assistant to full research faculty and staff for design, analysis (SAS) and management of NIH funded major multi-center medical studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. Substantive scientific and statistical responsibility and publication of major papers. Information and basic qualifications: www.bsc.gwu.edu. George Washington University is an AA/EOE.

■ Seeking individual w/advanced statistics degree to provide analytical support on genomic level data on National Institutes of Health projects, especially the Framingham SABRe population based study of heart disease. Experience in the application of statistical methods to large complex biomolecular data sets with one or more of JMP, SAS, R, MATLAB. Strong written and verbal communication skills to interact w/ scientific team members. Requisition #28087BR www.sra.com/careers.search.php. SRA International is an EOE.

Massachusetts

■ MS Biostatistician. Collaborate with medical and scientific researchers in design, analysis, and publication of cancer clinical trials and related research. Requirements: strong background in statistical principles, data analysis, computing (especially SAS and R), communication skills, and 1-2 years of experience. Send CV, names of three references to: MS Biostatistician Job Search, Biostatistics & Computational Biology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 44 Binney Street, Boston, MA 02115; biostatistics.job-search@jimmy.harvard.edu. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is an AA/EOE.



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Basic Qualifications: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in Biological Science, Physical Science or Computer Science **with** a Masters in Biostatistics or Statistics, at least one year of experience with clinical trials and supervisory experience. Preference will be given to candidates with experience with clinical trials involving study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS and those with excellent oral and written English communication skills.

Application Procedures: Applicants must send to ResearchJobs@bsc.gwu.edu a Curriculum Vitae and three letters of reference; a letter to include a synopsis of their role in collaborative medical research that has led to medical scientific presentation or publication and a statement of career purpose indicating their career goals and how this position can help you achieve those goals; and applicants for Assistant Research Professor positions must send an Official Transcript of graduate coursework leading to the doctoral degree to: **Manager of Human Resources, The Biostatistics Center, The George Washington University, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852.**
[HTTP://WWW.BSC.GWU.EDU](http://WWW.BSC.GWU.EDU)

Only complete applications will be considered. Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employees (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children.

All research and regular faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may apply for the **Samuel W. Greenhouse Biostatistics Research Enhancement Award**. For a period of 1 year, the award will provide 20% effort for methodological research and a discretionary fund to support professional activities, travel to professional meetings, supplies and equipment. Applicants for the research faculty position may also apply for the Greenhouse Award while their faculty application is being considered. For complete information including Award Application Materials Requirements, please visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu.

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U.S. Census Bureau

www.samsi.info for further information. Members of underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply. Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute is an AA/EOE.

Oklahoma

■ Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, College of Public Health, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, is recruiting a tenure-track assistant professor of biostatistics. PhD in biostatistics or related field and collaborative research experience required. Graduate teaching experience desired. Expertise preferred in survey-sampling methodology, statistical genetics/bioinformatics, Bayesian statistics, or network analysis. Attach letter of interest, CV, names of three references: Sara K. Vesely, PhD, (sara-vesely@ouhsc.edu). The University of Oklahoma is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Texas

■ Actuarial Science. The Mathematical Sciences Department, University of Texas at Dallas is seeking a tenure-system position in actuarial science. Seeking candidates who can interface and collaborate with current statistics faculty. Requirements: actuarial credentials (Associate or Fellow) a PhD in statistics or mathematics and actively engaged in research. Candidates will teach both graduate and undergraduate courses in actuarial science and statistics. Please apply at <http://go.utdallas.edu/png100305>. EOE.

Virginia

■ Virginia Tech's Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis(LISA) in the Department of Statistics seeks PhD statistician/biostatistician to become assistant director and assist the director in providing statistical service, research, and education to the university community. Desire to perform collaborative research, ability to mentor students, and excellent technical and communication skills are required. Experience collaborating in biomedical-related fields preferred. Apply at <http://listings.jobs.vt.edu> (posting #0100040). Virginia Tech is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. ■



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Founded in 1941, and affiliated with the University of Chicago, NORC is at the vanguard of large-scale survey research organizations and a pioneering center of innovative social science research in the public interest. Its success derives directly from its unique character as an eminent academic research center and a soundly-run business. Over the last decade, NORC has experienced strong revenue growth, significant operational improvement, and broad market expansion. Today, NORC is in its strongest position ever as it continues to advance the scholarly and methodological aspects of survey research and analysis with expansive national and global impact.

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The successful candidate will therefore be an experienced professional who has directed large-scale statistical research efforts, has experience in design and execution of research projects which involve extensive primary data collection, and has demonstrated success in developing new business and/or attracting funding for new initiatives. Additionally, those candidates with proven managerial experience are encouraged to apply and will be considered for an administrative leadership role within the Division.

Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, has been retained to assist NORC in this important recruitment. All inquiries, nominations/referrals, and resumes with cover letters, should be sent electronically and in confidence to: **Vivian Brocard, Vice President, Ponneh A. Varho, Senior Associate, Isaacson, Miller, E-mail: 3968@imsearch.com**

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This biostatistician faculty member will have an appointment within the Department of Statistics at the UConn Storrs Campus, but will have major responsibility for the CICATS Biostatistics Core that will facilitate the proposed growth of Clinical and Translational Science across the CICATS Consortium. In addition to his/her own original research and research collaborations, he/she will be responsible for the operations of the Research Design, Epidemiology and Biostatistics core. CICATS investigators will include trainees and both junior and senior faculty members from multiple disciplines. The faculty, in collaboration with a team of epidemiologists and master's level staff, will provide guidance to transdisciplinary teams for the development of research studies. He/she will also be responsible for biostatistical teaching in the new Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research.

The candidate must hold a doctorate in biostatistics or a closely related discipline and demonstrate past success with self-initiated research, extramural funding and published scholarship, the ability to work in collaboration with clinical and/or basic scientists. The candidate must contribute through research, teaching, and/or public engagement to the diversity and excellence of the learning experience.

Curriculum vitae and a cover letter sent to the Chair search committee, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut. We request that the application materials in pdf files to be sent through e-mail to biosearch@stat.uconn.edu

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The ideal candidate shall have a demonstrated potential for both collaborative and methodology research with extramural funding, experience in providing consultation services in a health-related environment, experience directing statistical support staff, experience interacting with clinicians and researchers from a broad range of medical backgrounds, a commitment to effective teaching and graduate student advising, and a willingness to contribute to the academic development of the department, college and USF Health through service.

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Under the Florida Sunshine law, applications and search committee meetings are open to the public. The University of South Florida is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Equal Access institution. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants who need disability accommodations in order to participate in the selection process should notify Ms. June Lake, EEO Coordinator, at (813) 974-8861 or TDD (813) 974-2218 at least five working days in advance of need.



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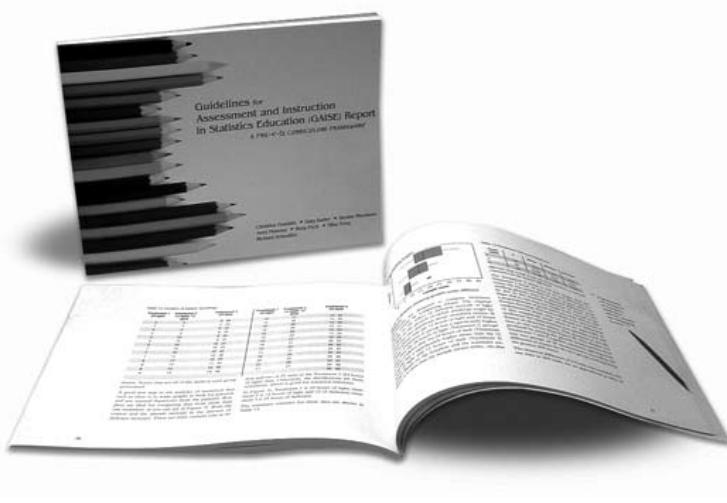
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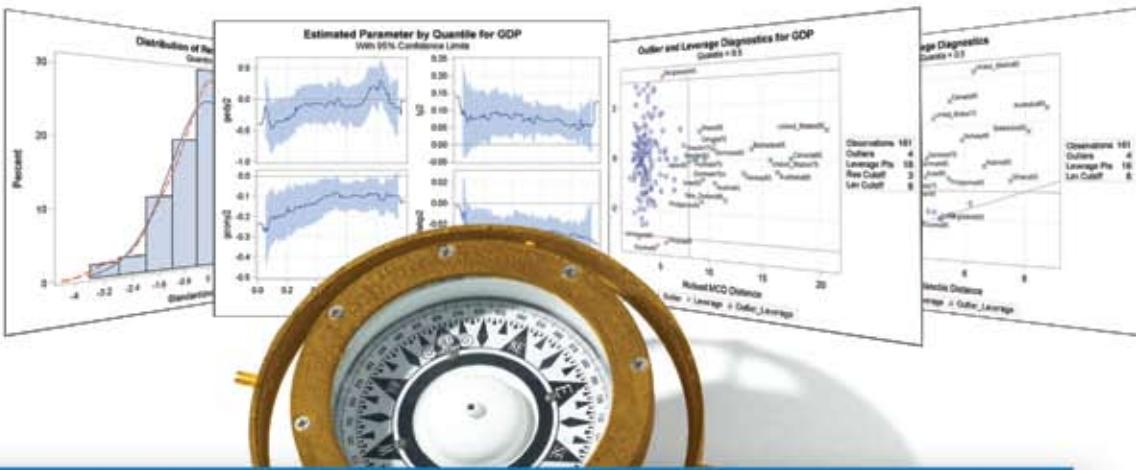


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