Preparing for MIAMI

ALSO:
Meet New NCES Commissioner
Jack Buckley

Japanese Colleagues Share Quake Experiences

Statistical Agencies' FY11 Budgets Cut
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STATISTICA provides the widest selection of analytics including predictive data mining, modeling, classification, and exploratory techniques in one software platform.

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Predictive Modeling and Classification: General Linear Models, Generalized Linear/Nonlinear Models, Generalized Additive Models, Nonlinear Estimation, Curve Fitting, Classification and Regression Trees, CHAID, Survival Analysis, and much more...

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Clustering: k-Means, EM, Hierarchical (Tree), Self Organizing Networks, and much more...

QC/Process Improvement: Real-Time and Predictive Quality Control Charts, Multivariate SPC, Design of Experiments (DOE), Process Capability, Weibull Analysis, Gage R&R, and much more...

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25 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
NSF and NIH: Funding for FY11

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 earned 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 as research and graduate education manager, he was a program officer at the National Science Foundation, primarily in the probability program.
Online Articles

The following articles in this issue can be found online at http://magazine.amstat.org.

2011 IISA Conference a Great Success. The focus was on younger statisticians during the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) conference that took place April 21–24 at North Carolina State University. The conference, titled “Probability, Statistics, and Data Analysis,” attracted close to 300 participants and included both established and emerging young statisticians from around the world. Plenary talks were given by Sally Morton, University of Pittsburgh; Michael Jordan, University of California, Berkeley; and SRS Varadhan, New York University. Read the details at http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2011/05/16/2011iisa.

Operations Research Comes to Zimbabwe in a Big Way. The executive committee of the Operations Research Society of South Africa (ORSSA) recently awarded its 2011 conference to the Zimbabwean OR community. In doing so, ORSSA hopes to foster greater collaboration and cooperation across southern African OR communities, accelerate the expansion of OR applications and education in Zimbabwe, and encourage the establishment of a Zimbabwean OR society. To read more about why the Zimbabwean community was chosen, visit http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2011/05/16/or.

columns

26 SCIENCE POLICY
Controlling Decennial Census Costs Major Theme of Senate Hearing

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.

Contributing Editor
Steve Pierson earned his PhD in physics from the University of Minnesota. He spent eight years in the physics department of Worcester Polytechnic Institute before becoming head of government relations at the American Physical Society.

29 STATr@k
Some Pearls of Wisdom

STATr@k is a column in Amstat News and a website geared toward people who are in a statistics program, recently graduated from a statistics program, or recently entered the job world. To read more articles like this one, visit the website at http://stattrak.amstat.org. If you have suggestions for future articles, or would like to submit an article, please email Megan Murphy, Amstat News managing editor, at megan@amstat.org.

Contributing Editor
John O. Rawlings is professor emeritus, department of statistics, North Carolina State University. He earned his bachelor’s in technical science and his master’s in agronomy from the University of Nebraska. Additionally, he earned his PhD in both statistics and crop science from North Carolina State University, where he was professor of statistics until 1994. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and the Crop Science Society of America.

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41 Professional Opportunities
Professional Service: What’s in It for Me?

I’ve heard recently that narcissism appears to be increasing. A *New York Times* article (April 26, p. D1) described an analysis of three decades of hit songs appearing on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The analysis revealed a statistically significant increased trend toward the use of the words “I” and “me” in popular song lyrics, along with a corresponding decrease of “we” and “us.” Some find this trend disturbing and would like to turn it around. So this column is about “we” and “us.”

In my February column, I mentioned that the president-elect’s primary responsibility is to make more than 150 committee appointments. President-elect Bob Rodriguez is in the process of doing that now. Finding 150 volunteers to contribute to the ASA community is no small feat! The appointments are made through a network of active ASA members, especially the vice chairs of the Leadership Support Council, which oversees the committees, and the committee chairs. By the time you read this, the next president-elect will have been announced. Have you ever thought about how you can become involved?

Why would anyone become involved in professional service, in particular service within the ASA? Some think in terms of “us” and believe we should be good citizens. We contribute to the community because it gives us a feeling of satisfaction, a feeling of “doing good.” That’s the altruistic reason. But there are other reasons, which should appeal to even those with a more personal motivation. Performing professional service can provide new challenges and expand one’s horizons.

There is reason to serve even if you are part of the “me” generation: You enhance your own professional network.

Nancy Geller
Another motivation mixes the “me” with the “us.” In performing professional service, you find role models (the “me”) and might become a role model (the “us”). You’re never too old or too experienced to look for new role models. And you’re never too young to be a role model for someone else. Professional service offers an opportunity to demonstrate your skills and teach them to others. It is also an opportunity to learn new skills. Watching from a distance (whether an especially effective speaker or the outstanding conductor of a meeting) is not as effective as learning from them how they became so effective.

Being active in the profession also will count in some ways toward career advancement. Some activities indicate you have standing in your profession, such as journal editorial board membership and membership on important committees.

Of course, you don’t start at the top. While 2012 committee appointments are well under way, you may volunteer to be on an ASA committee for 2013 by filling out a form on the ASA web site (www.amstat.org/committees/nominations/index.cfm). A list of committees can be found at www.amstat.org/committees/committeelist.cfm. The ASA is eager to have “new blood” active in the organization.

Another way to get involved in the ASA is through sections (www.amstat.org/sections/sectionlist.cfm), which deal with specific areas of statistics; chapters, which are regional groups (www.amstat.org/chapters/index.cfm); and outreach groups (www.amstat.org/outreachgroups/index.cfm), which involve common activities and interests that don’t fit into the traditional chapter or section structures. Everyone is welcome to join a section, chapter, or outreach group and begin to contribute to the ASA that way.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the ASA’s core of active, altruistic, and wonderful volunteers, and I thank them for their many contributions. I hope those of you not yet involved will be stimulated to join them.

Nancy L. Peller

Make sure you visit the Statisticians in the News page online at www.amstat.org/about/statisticiansinthenumes.cfm to read about your colleagues and friends in the statistical community.
Highlights of the April 2011 Board of Directors Meeting

ASA President Nancy Geller led the board through a packed agenda during its first meeting of 2011 at the ASA Office in Alexandria, Virginia, April 8–9. Here are the highlights:

- Based on recommendations from the respective search committees and Committee on Publications, the board appointed Ron Christensen as editor of *The American Statistician* and Jim Albert as editor of the *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*. Both appointments are for 2012–2014.

- The board reappointed Keith Ord as treasurer. Ord will continue to serve through 2013.

- As he does at each meeting, Ord updated the board on the status of ASA financials. He reviewed the 2010 financials, during which the ASA ended up slightly in the black, and looked at the status of the financials for this year and for future budgets. Ord noted that the ASA is tightly managing its resources and this is necessary for continued success.

- The board approved the audit report for 2010 and thanked Steve Porzio, ASA assistant executive director and director of operations, and his accounting staff for another excellent audit.

- President-elect Bob Rodriguez presented an overview of four initiatives he has planned for the coming year and received feedback from the board. The details will be finalized during spring and early summer. Further information will appear in *Amstat News* later this year.

- Rodriguez also reported on a unique discussion held at the ASA office on March 28. Rodriguez and Executive Director Ron Wasserstein met with expert managers in the field of business analytics to discuss the nature of their work and the role the ASA might play in advancing the careers of members in this area of statistical practice. ASA members Bob Starbuck, Dave Dickey, and Jim Rosenberger also were engaged in this discussion.

- The board also received progress reports on the current initiatives launched by Geller.

- The board heard a proposal to declare an International Year of Statistics in collaboration with the International Statistical Institute, the Royal Statistical Society, and others. Further discussion about this proposal will take place over the summer.

- Steve Pierson, ASA director of science policy, organized a panel discussion during which the board learned about a variety of issues related to legislation regarding the level of autonomy for the U.S. Census Bureau. Panel members included Connie Citro, executive director, CNSTAT; Louis Kincannon, U.S. Census Bureau director, 2002–2008; Ken Prewitt, U.S. Census Bureau director, 1998–2000; and vice president for Global Centers, Columbia University; and Andrew Reamer, research professor, Institute of Public Policy, The George Washington University.

2011 ASA Board of Directors

Nancy Geller, President
Bob Rodriguez, President-elect
Sastry Pantula, Past-President
Christy Chuang-Stein, Third-Year Vice President
Rod Little, Second-Year Vice President
Mary Mulry, First-Year Vice President
Jeri Mulrow, Third-Year Council of Sections Representative
Jessica Utts, Second-Year Council of Sections Representative
John Bailer, First-Year Council of Sections Representative
David Marker, Third-Year Council of Chapters Representative
Tom Short, Second-Year Council of Chapters Representative
Bonnie LaFleur, First-Year Council of Chapters Representative
Ray Chambers, International Representative
Karen Kafadar, Publications Representative
Keith Ord, Treasurer
Ron Wasserstein, ASA Executive Director
• The board heard a report from the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights (CSFHR) about human rights problems faced by official statisticians in Argentina. CSFHR chair, Bill Seltzer, presented the report, which suggested action steps for the board. The board concurred with the committee’s recommendations and follow up is under way.

• Iain Johnstone, chair of the Accreditation Committee, reported on the status of the accreditation program one year after the board approved the implementation plan. Johnstone noted, among other things, that the program is in full swing, with the application process open to all eligible members. See www.amstat.org/accreditation for details on how to apply. Geller thanked Johnstone for his outstanding leadership of the process.

• The board reviewed proposals received through the Member Initiative Program and decided to award full or partial funding to five of them.

• The board considered proposals for two new journal partnerships with other societies. The proposals had been reviewed and recommended by the Committee on Publications. The executive committee of the board will follow up on these proposed journals.

• The leadership of the Journal on Computational and Graphical Statistics proposed moving to single blind reviewing. Double-blind reviews are becoming virtually impossible for this journal because the source material reviewed is difficult to blind. The board concurred with the proposal, subject to the approval of our partners—the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the Interface Foundation of North America.

• Vice President Christy Chuang-Stein reported to the board on the status of committees under the Membership Council. The board was asked to follow up on concerns raised by some committees. This report and the related follow-up are part of the board strategy for committee management that was implemented during 2010.

• As it does at each meeting, the board heard reports on the status and well-being of the sections and chapters from the board representatives of those bodies. Both the Council of Chapters and Council of Sections governing boards meet regularly by conference call to manage issues of importance to the chapters and sections.

• The board approved a plan to develop a partnership with the Public Relations Society of America to develop best practices guidelines for public relations professionals using statistics.

The board next meets on June 17 in Alexandria, Virginia, for its annual budget meeting. The next regular meeting of the board is July 29–30, prior to JSM in Miami Beach.
SIAM NEWS

SIAM Offers Solution to Costly Textbooks

If you’re an instructor, you know students don’t want to pay a lot for their course texts, which means you struggle to find affordable texts for your courses. If you’re a student, you need your book funds to stretch as far as they can. That’s why SIAM, joint publisher of the ASA-SIAM Series on Statistics and Applied Probability, has enacted the Textbook Adoption Discount Program, which offers students 20% off list price for any SIAM book adopted as a primary text for an undergraduate- or graduate-level course. This discount may be used by all students enrolled in the course and is available only on books ordered directly from SIAM.

Instructors: Browse the SIAM catalog at www.siam.org/catalog to see if any of our titles suit your course. We encourage you to comb through all of SIAM’s titles to find one that’s just right for your students, but if you’d like to narrow your search, we also offer a textbooks-only page (www.siam.org/books/textbooks) that sorts books by category.

If you adopt an ASA-SIAM series book or any SIAM title as a primary text, you should apply for the discount before the semester begins by contacting Sara Murphy at murphy@siam.org with your request and providing a copy of your syllabus. You’ll be given a discount code to share with your students so they can order their textbooks from SIAM and save 20% off list price.

Students: If you are an ASA member, you can always get the 30% member discount on books in the ASA-SIAM series by ordering directly from SIAM. SIAM members get 30% off any SIAM title. If you’re not a member of either organization, encourage your instructors to take advantage of the Textbook Adoption Discount Program so you can save 20% off list price for your required texts.

NISS Helps Construct U.S. Census Bureau’s Synthetic Longitudinal Business Database

The U.S. Census Bureau announced in March that it is releasing its Synthetic Longitudinal Business Database Beta Data Product (SynLBD) for use by the general public. The SynLBD was produced by the Census Bureau in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), Duke University, Cornell University, the Internal Revenue Service, and the National Science Foundation. Research statistician Satkartar (Saki) Kinney led the NISS effort.

The purpose of SynLBD is to provide users access to a longitudinal business data product that can be used outside of secure Census Bureau facilities. The SynLBD contains synthesized information about establishments’ employment and payroll, as well as their birth and death years and actual industrial classification. The synthetic data are generated by fitting models to the confidential data and using these to simulate the replacement values. The goal is to preserve broad analyses in the data while protecting the confidentiality of individual establishments.

According to NISS Director Alan Karr, “Within the data confidentiality world, establishment data are more problematic than household or individual data, especially because large establishments are so easy to recognize. Although the nature of the difficulties is still emerging, longitudinal data are proving to be challenging in multiple ways, especially when there are ongoing releases of data.”

Researchers and others interested in using the SynLBD product may apply for a free user account on the Cornell University Virtual RDC at www.vrdc.cornell.edu/news/synthetic-data-server. For more information, visit the SynLBD website at www.ces.census.gov/index.php/lbd.
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Offer expires August 31, 2011.
American Statistical Association

Statement Of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2010
(With Comparative Totals For 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unaudited</td>
<td>Audited</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
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<td>Membership and support</td>
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<td>$ 2,257,052</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$ 1,583,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership and support</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>$ 683,202</td>
<td>$ 683,202</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets held for restricted purposes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</table>

2010 Audit Report for the American Statistical Association

American Statistical Association

Balance Sheet
December 31, 2010
(With Comparative Totals For 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$ 1,152,157</td>
<td>$ 1,052,159</td>
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<td>Receivables, net</td>
<td>$ 458,390</td>
<td>$ 243,460</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td>$ 211,322</td>
<td>$ 186,167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td>$ 1,813,877</td>
<td>$ 1,481,786</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$ 4,455,856</td>
<td>$ 4,455,856</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity in joint ventures</td>
<td>$ 288,722</td>
<td>$ 307,782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bond Insurance Costs</td>
<td>$ 134,155</td>
<td>$ 141,066</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property And Equipment, net</td>
<td>$ 579,050</td>
<td>$ 628,847</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 5,867,103</td>
<td>$ 5,854,835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>$ 20,462,843</td>
<td>$ 18,319,438</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>$ 20,462,843</td>
<td>$ 18,319,438</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010 Audit Report for the American Statistical Association

American Statistical Association

Statement Of Cash Flows
Year Ended December 31, 2010
(With Comparative Totals For 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</td>
<td>$ 849,369</td>
<td>$ 1,055,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Decrease) in net assets</td>
<td>$ 1,005,968</td>
<td>$ 1,055,134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities</td>
<td>$ 244,778</td>
<td>$ 24,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$ 396,347</td>
<td>$ 342,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization of bond insurance costs</td>
<td>$ 6,000</td>
<td>$ 6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in allowance for doubtful accounts</td>
<td>$ 20,000</td>
<td>$ 20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity in earnings from joint ventures</td>
<td>$ 60,000</td>
<td>$ 55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net unrealized and realized gains on investments</td>
<td>$ (844,257)</td>
<td>$(1,726,660)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss (gain) on interest rate swap contract</td>
<td>$ 84,478</td>
<td>$ 142,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in assets and liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Increase) in receivables, net</td>
<td>$ 224,778</td>
<td>$ 24,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Decrease) in payables, net</td>
<td>$ (21,155)</td>
<td>$ 81,899</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Increase) in prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td>$ (21,155)</td>
<td>$ 81,899</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 209,602</td>
<td>$ 107,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in due to joint ventures</td>
<td>$ 723,770</td>
<td>$ 87,437</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase in allowance for doubtful accounts</td>
<td>$ 20,000</td>
<td>$ 20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in net cash provided by operating activities</td>
<td>$ (451,582)</td>
<td>$ (158,235)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</td>
<td>$ (2,144,152)</td>
<td>$ (4,493,210)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchases of investments</td>
<td>$ (2,144,152)</td>
<td>$ (4,493,210)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sales of investments</td>
<td>$ 1,112,770</td>
<td>$ 9,020,396</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchases of property and equipment</td>
<td>$ 88,210</td>
<td>$ 88,210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net cash (used) provided by investing activities</td>
<td>$(2,211,384)</td>
<td>$ (5,410,225)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</td>
<td>$ (209,060)</td>
<td>$ (209,060)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repayment of bonds</td>
<td>$(209,060)</td>
<td>$(209,060)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash (used) in financing activities</td>
<td>$(209,060)</td>
<td>$(209,060)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$ 89,200</td>
<td>$ 169,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents: Beginning</td>
<td>$ 1,852,100</td>
<td>$ 993,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending</td>
<td>$ 1,941,300</td>
<td>$ 1,163,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Disclosure Of Cash Flow Information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid for income taxes</td>
<td>$ 193,127</td>
<td>$ 247,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid for interest expense</td>
<td>$ 284,985</td>
<td>$ 321,159</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Notes To Financial Statements.
2010 Audit Report for the American Statistical Association (continued)

American Statistical Association
Notes To Financial Statements
Note 1. Nature Of Activities And Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)
Valuation of long-lived assets: The Association accounts for the valuation of long-lived assets in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification. Accounting for the impairment or disposal of long-lived assets is in accordance with the FASB Accounting Standards Codification, Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets, long-lived assets and certain identifiable intangible assets are to be reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds the fair value estimated for the asset. Assets to be disposed of at or before the end of the current fiscal year are reported separately in the financial statements.

Interest rate swap contract: The Association follows the Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, related to its participation in an interest rate swap contract in relation to its mortgage note, which is considered a derivative financial instrument. This application standard requires that all derivative financial instruments be recognized in the financial statements at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivative financial instruments are recognized each period as a component of change in net assets.

Bond issuance costs: The Association paid certain customary fees as required to secure the note used to finance the acquisition of its new headquarters. These fees have been capitalized and are being amortized over the term of the bonds. Amortization expense was $5,351 for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Board designator notes: The Board of Directors has designated $1,223,734 as December 31, 2010, of unrestricted net assets to be used in various section activities and other board-approved projects.

Revenue and support: Membership dues are recognized ratably over the applicable membership period to which they apply. Payments for memberships, subscriptions, sales, rental sales, or services to be rendered and received in advance are deferred to the appropriate period.

Meeting revenue is recognized at the time the meeting takes place. Amounts received in advance of the meeting are shown as deferred revenue.

Publication revenue is recognized upon delivery of the material.

All door-restricted revenue is reported as an increase in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets, depending on the nature of the restriction. Where a restriction exists that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is assimilated, temporarily restricted net assets are released to unrestricted net assets in accordance with the statement of activities of the organization and the restrictions. Temporarily restricted net assets are reported as unrestricted net assets if the restrictions lapse within the same period.

Functional allocations of expenses: The costs of providing various programs and other activities have been allocated to a program based on the nature and purpose of the activity. According, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

American Statistical Association
Notes To Financial Statements
Note 1. Nature Of Activities And Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)
Notes Presentation: The financial statements present the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification. The Financial Statements for Not-For-Profit Organizations, the Association is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the guidance of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets.

Cash and cash equivalents: The Association presents all highly liquid instruments which are to be used for current operations and which have been issued at the transaction date at their fair value. The Association holds no investments which are not subject to price fluctuation. Due to the level of risk associated with such investments and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of such investments, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the fair value of these instruments could materially affect investment balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Prepayments: Prepayments received are carried at principal amounts, less an estimate made for doubtful accounts based on a review of all outstanding amounts as of the balance sheet date. Management determines the allowance for doubtful accounts by identifying outstanding accounts and using historical experience applied to the aging of receivables. Prepayments are written off when deemed uncollectible. Recoveries of prepayments previously written off are recognized when received. The provision for doubtful accounts, based on management's evaluation of the collectibility of receivables, was $9,716 during December 31, 2010. No interest was charged on any outstanding receivables.

Investments: Investments with readily determinable fair values are recorded at fair market value. To adjust the carrying value to the market value, the change in fair value is recorded as a component of investment income in the statement of activities.

Equity in joint ventures: The Association has investments in certain joint ventures for which the equity method of accounting is used. Under the equity method, original investments are recorded at cost and adjusted by the Association's share of undistributed earnings or losses of these joint ventures.

Property and equipment: Property and equipment are stated at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful lives on the straight-line method. The Association capitalizes all property and equipment purchased with a cost of $2,500 or more.

American Statistical Association
Notes To Financial Statements
Note 1. Nature Of Activities And Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)
Income taxes: The Association is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, the Association qualifies for the charitable contributions deduction and has been classified as an organization that is not a private foundation. Therefore, the Association is required to report estimated business income tax to the Internal Revenue Service and the state of Virginia, as well as pay certain other taxes to local municipalities. The Association recognized approximately $10,000 in income tax expense on unrealized business income related to the net investment earned on invested assets for the year ended December 31, 2010.

The accounting standard on accounting for uncertainty in income taxes, which addresses the determination of whether a tax benefit claimed or expected to be claimed on a tax return should be recorded in the financial statements. Under the accounting standard, the Association recognizes the benefit from an uncertain tax position only if it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities, based on the technical merits of the position. The tax benefits recognized in the financial statements from such a position are measured based on the largest benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement.

The association recognizes accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits as interest and penalties included in income taxes, and accounting in income periods.

Management evaluated the Association's tax positions and concluded that the Association had taken no uncertain tax positions that would require disclosure. The Association files federal income tax returns in the United States and state income tax returns in the state of Virginia. Generally, the Association is no longer subject to federal, state, and local income tax examinations for years before 2007.

Fair value of financial instruments: The carrying amounts included in cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued expenses approximate fair value because the short maturity of these instruments. The carrying amount of bonds payable approximates fair value, because the interest rate on this instrument fluctuates with market interest rates available to the Association with similar terms and maturities.

Use of estimates: The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Prior year information: The financial statements include certain prior year reorganized and comparable financial statements. Information in this report is not restated in total or in part by class. Such information does not include sufficient detail to generate a complete presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information is not comparable with the current and comparative financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009, from which the unaudited information was derived.

New presentation: In January 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) released the FASB Accounting Standards Update No. 2010-06 (ASU 2010-06), which provided additional guidance related to the reporting of financial statement information for not-for-profit organizations. The statement requires the Association to report financial information on both a basis consistent with the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009, from which the unaudited information was derived.

Subsequent events: The Association evaluated subsequent events through March 28, 2011, which is the date financial statements were issued.
2010 Audit Report for the American Statistical Association (continued)

American Statistical Association
Notes to Financial Statements
Note 2. Receivables
Receivables consist of the following at December 31, 2010:

Grants receivable $ 195,106
Trade accounts receivable 149,436
Other receivables 80,226
Due from joint ventures 48,182
Less provision for doubtful accounts 10,716
$259,620

Note 3. Investments
Investments, at fair market value, consist of the following at December 31, 2010:

Equity mutual funds $ 9,005,777
Fixed income mutual funds 3,343,573
Money market* 229,406
* Money market funds are not subject to the provisions of the fair value measurements as they are recorded at cost.

The following summarizes investment income for the year ended December 31, 2010:

Interest and dividends $ 205,730
Realized gain 25,012
Unrealized gain 307,742
$ 538,484

American Statistical Association
Notes to Financial Statements
Note 4. Equity in Joint Ventures
The following schedules present summarized financial information from the joint ventures in which the Association has an equity interest. Amounts presented for the year ended December 31, 2010, include the accounts of Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics (40 percent equity) and Technometrics (60 percent equity).

Condensed income statement information:
Revenues $ 206,881
Expenses 228,421
Net income $ 67,560

Condensed balance sheet information:
Total assets $ 713,601
Total liabilities 241,167
Net equity $ 472,434

Note 5. Property and Equipment
Property and equipment and accumulated depreciation at December 31, 2010, and depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2010, are as follows:

Estimated Useful Lives
Building 30 years 7,329,958 1,919,644 246,092
Building enhancements 20 years 1,175,360 172,028 36,243
Office equipment 5 years 83,264 16,653 3,513
Furniture and fixtures 5 years 211,860 55,472 11,490
Computer equipment 3 years 122,175 36,653 7,176
Software 5 years 394,168 78,834 15,640

Less 1,286,600
$ 1,417,405 5,856 19,505 504,040

American Statistical Association
Notes to Financial Statements
Note 6. Temporarily and Permanently Restricted Net Assets
Temporarily restricted net assets are available at December 31, 2010, for the following purposes and net assets were released from restriction by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Balance December 31, 2009</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Investment Income</th>
<th>Released</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$1,417,405</td>
<td>5,856</td>
<td>19,505</td>
<td>504,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Scholarships</td>
<td>104,114</td>
<td>11,865</td>
<td>3,215</td>
<td>4,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallis Award</td>
<td>70,301</td>
<td>1,654</td>
<td>3,550</td>
<td>89,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yodson Award</td>
<td>41,104</td>
<td>2,074</td>
<td>1,104</td>
<td>42,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyman Smith School Fund</td>
<td>20,481</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>32,124</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derks Lecture Fund</td>
<td>28,253</td>
<td>2,024</td>
<td>1,632</td>
<td>27,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSPVA Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>27,149</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>26,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICF Research Fund</td>
<td>28,186</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,339</td>
<td>26,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers Award (ICF Software)</td>
<td>19,697</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>19,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-endow Funds</td>
<td>20,925</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,169</td>
<td>9,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dow Award</td>
<td>14,893</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>18,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffith Award</td>
<td>6,855</td>
<td>2,865</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>10,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA Jacobs Award</td>
<td>7,192</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>7,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Memorial</td>
<td>5,127</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Education Fund</td>
<td>5,450</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>5,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access in Statistics Fund</td>
<td>3,483</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,555</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet - White Conference</td>
<td>2,810</td>
<td>1,115</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemometrics Award</td>
<td>3,150</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>3,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Statistics Fund</td>
<td>3,717</td>
<td>1,667</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WJ Memorial</td>
<td>3,274</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>1,330</td>
<td>2,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence in Statistics Fund</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-endowed funds</td>
<td>10,837</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,187</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$434,954</td>
<td>28,177</td>
<td>25,748</td>
<td>43,105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permanently restricted net assets consist primarily of accumulated contributions for various awards, include series, and scholarships. These assets consist of the following at December 31, 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Balance December 31, 2009</th>
<th>Additions</th>
<th>Balance December 31, 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nelson Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$ 238,566</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 238,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derks Lecture Fund</td>
<td>22,375</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yodson Fund</td>
<td>82,180</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>82,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WP Bryant Fund</td>
<td>17,143</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Memorial Fund</td>
<td>26,350</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Fund</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 430,215</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 430,215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 6. Temporarily and Permanently Restricted Net Assets (Continued)
The Board of Directors of the Association has interpreted the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor-restricted endowment fund absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Association classifies its temporarily restricted net assets (a) the original value of gifts contributed to the permanently endowment, (b) the original value of state-endowment gifts to the permanent endowment, and (c) accumulations to the permanent endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument or at the time the accumulation is added to the fund. The remaining portion of the donor-restricted endowment fund that is not classified in permanently restricted net assets is classified as temporarily restricted net assets until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the organization in a manner consistent with the standards and practices prescribed by UPMIFA. In accordance with UPMIFA, the Association considers the following factors in making a determination as to appropriate or accumulable donor-restricted endowment funds:

- The duration and purpose of the fund
- The purposes of the organization and the donor-restricted endowment fund
- General economic conditions
- The possible effect of inflation and deflation
- The expected total return on income and the appreciation of investments
- Other resources of the Association
- The investment policies of the Association

The Association has adopted an investment and spending policy for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by the endowment while also maintaining purchasing power of the endowment assets.

All amounts of the endowment are reflected as temporarily restricted net assets until appropriated for expenditure by the various Committees of the Association. The Board of Directors has assigned a Committee to each program for the purpose of selecting and recommending candidates for awards or grants.

For the year ended December 31, 2010, the Association had the following endowment-related activities:

- Temporarily Restricted: $129,932, 408,936
- Permanently Restricted: $25,748, 43,105

Endowment net assets - December 31, 2010 $ 151,420 402,256

Note 7. Tax Information
For the year ended December 31, 2010, the Association:

- Paid federal income tax - $151,360
- Paid state and local income tax - $8,190

Net income - December 31, 2010 $ 113,630 402,256
2010 Audit Report for the American Statistical Association (continued)

American Statistical Association
Notes To Financial Statements

Note 7. Retirement Plans
The Association has a 401(k) profit sharing plan and a money purchase plan. Both plans cover all full-time employees. Under the terms of the 401(k) profit sharing plan, the Association will match 100 percent of the participating employees' contributions up to three percent of the employee's salary. Under the terms of the money purchase plan, the Association contributes six percent of an eligible employee's compensation to the plan. Contribution expense to the plan is as follows for the year ended December 31, 2010:

- Money purchase plan: $157,731
- 401(k) profit sharing plan: $23,362

Total: $181,093

Note 8. Related Party Transactions
The Association is a co-sponsor in several joint ventures. It has maintenance agreements with the same joint ventures in which it provides management and collection services, office space, and editorial and administrative support.

The following schedules summarize the Association's financial activity with the joint ventures for the year ended December 31, 2010:

- Due from Joint Ventures:
  - Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics: $7,513
  - Technometrics: $19,432
- Due to Joint Ventures:
  - Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics: $40,660
  - Technometrics: $2,116

Maintenance Agreement Revenue:

- Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics: $29,850
- Technometrics: $27,850

American Statistical Association
Notes To Financial Statements

Note 9. Bond Payable
On August 1, 2005, the Association entered into an agreement with the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Alexandria to issue $8,000,000 of Industrial Development Revenue Bonds on behalf of the Association to finance the purchase and renovation of a new headquarters building. The bonds are secured by a mortgage on the new warehouse facility owned by the Association. The bonds are payable in equal annual installments. The interest rate is fixed at 7.625% per annum, payable semi-annually on January 1 and July 1. The bonds are due on August 1, 2025. The annual interest expense is $452,000.

American Statistical Association
Notes To Financial Statements

Note 10. Interest Rate Swap Contract
The Association has an interest rate swap contract with a bank to reduce the interest rate on its variable-rate mortgage note to a fixed rate of 4.50% per annum. The swap contract is effective for a term of three years, commencing on December 31, 2009. As of December 31, 2010, the fair value of the swap contract was a liability of $17,400.

American Statistical Association
Notes To Financial Statements

Note 11. Commitments
Investment agreements: The Association has entered into an investment agreement with a financial institution to invest its funds in fixed-income securities. The agreement provides for the Association to receive a fixed rate of return on its investment, subject to certain conditions.

Note 12. Contingencies
The Association is involved in a number of federal and state grant programs, which are subject to financial and compliance audits by the agencies or their representatives. As such, there exists a potential liability for incurred costs that may result from such audits. Management does not anticipate any significant adjustments as a result of such audits.

Note 13. Fair Value Measurements
The Fair Value Measurements Fair Value Measurements establishes a single authoritative definition of fair value, and requires additional disclosures about fair value measurements. This standard applies to all assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value, requires additional disclosures about fair value measurements, and requires that fair value be measured by using the market approach. The market approach uses market data inputs, including quoted prices and unobservable inputs. The market approach uses observable inputs, including quoted prices and unobservable inputs. The market approach uses observable inputs, including quoted prices and unobservable inputs. The market approach uses observable inputs, including quoted prices and unobservable inputs. The market approach uses observable inputs, including quoted prices and unobservable inputs.

The table below presents the balances of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis by level within the hierarchy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Assets</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity mutual funds</td>
<td>$954,355</td>
<td>$954,355</td>
<td>$954,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$954,355</td>
<td>$954,355</td>
<td>$954,355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above presents the balances of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis by level within the hierarchy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Liabilities</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest rate swap contract</td>
<td>$874,450</td>
<td>$874,450</td>
<td>$874,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$874,450</td>
<td>$874,450</td>
<td>$874,450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Research Section of the Royal Statistical Society is seeking manuscripts for possible publication, with discussion, in the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series B (JRSSB). With a five-year impact factor of 4.75, JRSSB is ranked as second by the ISI Web of Knowledge in the Statistics and Probability category and first among mainstream statistics journals.

Publication of discussion papers is a long-standing tradition of the journal. Upon acceptance, a discussion paper is presented before the society at one of its ordinary meetings and published in the journal with contributions from discussants and the authors’ response. Typically, JRSSB discussion papers attract a large number of discussion contributions, either presented at the meeting or submitted subsequently in writing, and go on to become highly cited.

Papers should contain original work that is at the leading edge of methodological development and have a strong emphasis on relevance to statistical practice and the clear potential for stimulating discussion. This includes papers on statistical models, methods of analysis, and the theory that underlies them—almost invariably motivated or illustrated by real examples.

JRSSB aims to disseminate work that is innovative, insightful, and likely to have a substantial impact on the way data are collected and analyzed. Within these parameters, the journal’s scope is broad, embracing, for example, relevant work in applied probability, computational methods, and the foundations of statistics. Discussion papers should be written to attract a large and varied audience and encourage discussion contributions from others. Papers written for specialist groups are unlikely to be accepted.

To submit your work, go to ScholarOne Manuscripts at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jrss and choose “Paper for Reading—Series B” as Manuscript Type. For questions, email the research section secretary, Piotr Fryzlewicz, at p.fryzlewicz@lse.ac.uk.
What about this position appealed to you?
As an academic, my primary research interests have been applied statistics and education policy. NCES, as the federal statistical agency for education, is the perfect nexus of both. In addition, I was fortunate enough to serve as deputy commissioner from 2006–2008, so I knew a lot about both our outstanding staff and our fascinating mission to collect data on all aspects of the condition of education in the United States.

Although the Department of Education only dates back to 1980, a federal office by various names has collected education statistics since 1867 under different Cabinet agencies. It is a great privilege to play a role in maintaining this proud tradition.

Describe the top 2–3 priorities you have for NCES.
First, the integrity of NCES and the data we collect must be paramount. The center has a solid record for honesty and accuracy and our data are generally regarded as apolitical, nonpartisan, and nonideological. I am keenly aware that I have inherited this reputation from my predecessors and I know that my staff and I must pass it on to our successors. There can be no compromise with respect to our integrity.

Second, NCES must strive to retain the relevance of our data and reporting. It does us, and the nation, little good if we accurately and thoroughly measure aspects of education that are irrelevant to policymakers and the public while failing to report on areas central to current policy debates.

A second dimension of relevance is timeliness. The most accurate answers to exactly the right questions are nevertheless irrelevant if they arrive too late. Timeliness is always in tension with quality; it is our responsibility at NCES to let neither win at the expense of the other.

My third priority is rigor. As a federal statistical agency, our reporting and methodology must be at the leading edge of many fields, including measurement, psychometrics, statistical computing, survey sampling, instrument design, field data collection, and confidentiality and statistical disclosure limitation. And yet we need rigor without mortis; the requirement for scientific excellence must not stifle new ideas. A key part of maintaining this balance in the next few years will be the completion of the ongoing review and revision of our internal statistical standards and the expansion of opportunities for our staff to receive training in methodological advances.

Finally, NCES must remain innovative. Our history is one of spectacular innovation: large-scale, nationally representative, multi-level surveys and national, state, and international assessments pushing the boundaries of psychometrics are all the more impressive because their methods were devised to operate when computers were slow and processing time expensive. In the few months I have been back, I have been pleased to observe innovative work across the center.

What do you see as your biggest challenge(s) for NCES?
In the last 10 years, there has been a vast increase in the amount of administrative data in U.S. education, especially in grades K–12, driven at least in part by changes in federal policy. Although NCES has been involved in this revolution, particularly through our State Longitudinal Data Systems grant program, we have not yet
realized the full potential of these data for both reporting purposes and improving survey and assessment operations.

A particular challenge with respect to these data is fulfilling our mandate to create voluntary common education data standards for state longitudinal education data systems. We're about 7–8 years behind here and progress must be quick.

**How can the statistical community help you?**

We're very fortunate at NCES to have the assistance of several communities: the fantastically strong statistics and survey research world here in DC, the small but essential community of psychometricians and measurement specialists, and the broader group of empirical education researchers. People from all three groups have, historically, donated their time and invaluable expertise to our data collections. For example, John Tukey's role on the technical advisory panel to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 1965, or James Coleman's pioneering longitudinal study designs in the 1970s.

My hope is that we can ensure this partnership remains vital, and I will be seeking the input of statisticians and statistically minded social scientists to advise us on all aspects of our work.

**Prior to your tenure, what do you see as the biggest recent accomplishment of the agency?**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 required several substantial changes to the National Assessment of Educational Progress that greatly improved the program. NCLB requires state participation in reading and mathematics assessments in grades 4 and 8 every two years (formerly every four years). NCES redesigned NAEP to permit reporting within six months (formerly 12–18 months) with reports targeted to the general public.

To permit comparisons among the states for reading and mathematics, the sample sizes for grades 4 and 8 combined increased from around 15,000–30,000 to more than 300,000 students assessed every two years in these subjects alone. This increase in scope, combined with the rapid reporting schedule, required significant improvements in all areas of operations.

**What makes NCES unique in the federal statistical community?**

Like most other statistical agencies, NCES has a portfolio of universe and sample survey data collections and a growing focus on administrative data. What sets us apart, however, is our role in educational assessment. In any given year, through programs like NAEP and the comparative international assessments (PISA, TIMSS, PIRLS), NCES is assessing the cognitive skills of hundreds of thousands of U.S. students at a wide range of grade levels—even the adult population through the OECD’s Program of International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) and, historically, the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL).

These assessments pose a unique set of challenges in terms of item design, psychometrics, and complex sampling. Results from these data collections allow NCES to measure where American students stand in subject areas ranging from reading and mathematics to civics and the arts, and they make it possible for policymakers to compare academic achievement and adult literacy among states and across nations. ■

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**NCES Fast Facts**

Part of the Institute of Education Sciences at the Department of Education

**Website:** http://nces.ed.gov

**Fiscal year 2010 budget:** $264 million

**Staff size:** 112
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2010 DMA Analytics Challenge
Make-A-Wish Foundation Targeting Solution, Lapsed Donor Segments

INFORMS 2009
Healthcare Quality Task

2009 KDDCup
CRM task, telecom dataset

2008 DMA Analytics Challenge
Direct Marketing Optimization task

2008 Scientific Computing
Data Mining Readers’ Choice Award

2007 DMA Analytics Challenge
Targeted Marketing task

2007 PAKDD
Cross-selling task, financial dataset

2006 PAKDD
Upselling task, telecom dataset

2004 KDDCup
Partite Physics task

2002 Duke/TeraData
Churn Modeling, CRM

2000 KDDCup
Web Analytics

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On March 11, Japan experienced one of the world’s strongest earthquakes, which was followed by a Pacific Ocean tsunami of historic proportions. I have many colleagues, collaborators, and friends in Japan, so I was distraught upon hearing of the disaster and immediately began visiting the websites of a number of Japanese universities. Many sites were down, but I eventually connected with the University of Tsukuba’s site. The university was shut down and badly damaged. By the morning of March 13, I had not heard anything about the well-being of my friends and colleagues from the university, so I decided to send out the following email:

My Dearest Colleagues,

I realize that you live in different places in Japan, but you also may have families, other loved ones, colleagues, students, and friends in some of those devastated areas. In this time of utter misery and total despair, my earnest hope and prayer is that you and yours are all safe and everyone is doing as well as can be expected. ... In 2004, I was in Sri Lanka with my wife and two sons, landed there for the International Sri Lankan Conference just two days before that Tsunami hit. Those unimaginable and horrific images are coming back. … When you get a chance, just let me please know that you are all doing alright. A reply from you will help ease some of the distress and pain that I feel for my super friends and colleagues in Japan. … All the best and God bless.

Eiichi Isogai, a professor at Niigata University, wrote back “… I would like to appreciate your kindness. My family and I are safe and my house was not damaged. Thank you again. …”

On March 12, Akimichi Takemura, a professor at the University of Tokyo, wrote “…Thank you very much for your mail. Tokyo area is OK. However, the northeast coastal area of the main island of Japan is devastated. …”

Also on March 12, Yoshikazu Takada, a professor at the University of Kumamoto, wrote “… Thank you very much for your concern of the earthquake occurred in Japan last week. The place is very far away from my town. So I am all right [sic]. …”

It was a relief knowing these colleagues and their families were safe, but I had not heard from anyone at the University of Tsukuba. My worries steadily increased as I expected the worst while hoping for the best. Eventually, I received a note from Professor Yata, who wrote “… Since the email has returned, I am now able to read emails from you. Thank you for your great concerns. My living city has broken a little by the earthquakes. However, I am OK and Prof. Aoshima is also OK. Thank you very much for worrying. We are fine. …” So, on March 15 at 11:49:25 p.m., I began to relax.

On March 17 at 12:25:37 p.m., I heard from Professor Aoshima. He wrote, “… I saw your email just today because the university’s mail server had been down after the earthquake (magnitude 9.0) hit my place. I could escape from the disaster. My office is on the 8th floor; that is the top of the building. The tall-large bookshelf behind my desk fell down and pieces of broken glass scattered here and there, even on my chair. The desk and chair and computers and printers and phone and copy machine and the others were covered and crushed by the fallen bookshelf. At that time, I was in the seminar room. I ordered my graduate students to keep themselves under the desks. I tried to open the door; however, I was very difficult to even stand myself in such heavy shakes. The terrible shakes had continued and grown for a few minutes. The seminar room’s heavy bookshelves moved one meter right and left in front of my eyes like a monster spitting out lots of books here and there. During a short rest, I ordered students and colleagues to get out of the building from fire stairs. I was the last person to escape from the building. My past students, Yata and Yuko, are
safe and no damage since they are on the 5th floor, even in the same building. My family and my house are safe, since my house is on the first floor. It takes a while to revive. However, I learn from this very special experience. I get my life luckily. We are all safe. Thank you very much for your great consideration. … All the best. …”

Since Professor Aoshima was so expressive, I decided to ask him a few specific questions and requested he jot down his thoughts. Professor Aoshima briefly answered a number of my questions on March 20. Based on that brief “conversation” and a follow up on April 4, I include an edited email conversation below:

**Mukhopadhyay:** Where were you and what were you doing when the earthquake hit Japan?

**Aoshima:** I was in a seminar room of an eight-story building on campus. I was discussing with my graduate students their research projects.

**Mukhopadhyay:** Where was your family at the time? Could you “connect” with them right away after the earthquake?

**Aoshima:** They were in my house. I could not connect with them right away because mail server and telephone communication were down. However, I could get together after I was back to my house.

**Mukhopadhyay:** I know that you were on campus at the time. Were many buildings damaged? How severely? Anybody get hurt? What was the general situation on Day 1 and now?

**Aoshima:** There are many cracks in most buildings on campus, and the University Hall and the gymnasium were damaged. So, the graduation ceremony (usually held in the middle of March) was cancelled. Fortunately, I have not heard that anybody got hurt on campus.

**Mukhopadhyay:** From your university’s website, I find that many nonemergency operations are shut down or are moving slowly. Is that continuing?

**Aoshima:** Web server is still partly shut down. Stopping the supply of water is continuing. Since aftershocks are continuing, things are moving along slowly and very carefully.

**Mukhopadhyay:** When do you expect your university’s normal operations to begin again? How are the students? When are they coming back to campus?

**Aoshima:** We are preparing to start our university’s normal operations in April, which is the beginning of the Japanese school year. Now, the students are having their spring vacation.

**Mukhopadhyay:** How far is your university from the center of the earthquake or those nuclear stations?

**Aoshima:** About 340 km from the center of the earthquake and about 170 km from nuclear stations.

**Mukhopadhyay:** Did the tsunami affect you and your local people? If so, how?

**Aoshima:** It seems that people living within 5 km from the ocean in Tohoku area were seriously affected by tsunami.

**Mukhopadhyay:** Which other universities in Japan are badly affected? Any news of major hardship or injuries or loss of life among university students and faculty and their friends?

**Aoshima:** It seems that universities in Tohoku-North Kanto areas were mainly affected. Although our university is located in North Kanto area, it seems not to be badly affected. I have not heard there is any news of major hardship or injuries or loss of life among university students and faculty and their friends. However, I have to mention that people hit by tsunami are still badly affected. Also, people living within 20 km from nuclear stations received official advice to evacuate, while some foreign media reported the distance at 80 km.

**Mukhopadhyay:** Right after the earthquake, what did you do? How about your family?

**Aoshima:** Right after the earthquake, we were all in inconvenient situations. However, soon afterward, we started to gradually recover, since we are not as badly affected compared with the people who got hit by the tsunami and nuclear disaster.

**Mukhopadhyay:** Are you teaching now? Probably not. So, how are you spending your time?

**Aoshima:** Fortunately, Japanese universities have been welcoming spring vacation, as usual in this season.

**Mukhopadhyay:** Do you have electricity, a supply of food, and other essential necessities?

**Aoshima:** Now, we are already starting to live as normally as possible. There seems to be no problem about essential items in this area.

**Mukhopadhyay:** How about the transportation to and from campus to your home?

**Aoshima:** There seems to be no problem about that in this area.

**Mukhopadhyay:** What is your impression of the magnitude of the nuclear disaster that followed the tsunami? Do you feel that you and your family and friends are alright? Personally, do you expect a big fallout, or is it just media hype? How far are you from that site?

**Aoshima:** I think that foreign media has portrayed Japanese situations very exaggeratedly and dramatically. Especially their reports about nuclear disaster sometimes seem to be excessively sensational. We Japanese are often perplexed with rumors spread from abroad.

**Mukhopadhyay:** Anything else?

**Aoshima:** Fortunately, there seems to be no problem in my immediate area. However, people hit by the tsunami and nuclear mishap are living in difficult situations. We feel concerned about them and consider seriously about the kind of helping hands they need from the rest of us right now.
The Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. Census Bureau, and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) all saw their budgets cut in the Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) budget deal signed by President Obama on April 15 to determine the federal budget through September 30. While the FY11 budgets for some statistical agencies weren’t available by press time, most saw 0.2% across-the-board cut from their FY10 levels.

EIA’s cut was the most severe at 14%—relative to its FY10 budget—to an FY11 level of $95.4 million. In an April 28 press release, EIA Administrator Richard Newell stated, “The lower FY 2011 funding level will require significant cuts in EIA’s data, analysis, and forecasting activities.” The press release lists 18 specific impacts and indicates other project curtailments are possible. The impacts range from not publishing certain data releases, analyses, and reports to halting some data collection and suspending projection model upgrades.

The Census Bureau budget was cut by at least $93 million below its FY11 request of $1.267 billion, but the impacts of these cuts weren’t available as this issue went to press. (Comparison with its FY10 budget isn’t meaningful because of the large costs in that fiscal year for executing the 2010 decennial census.)

The NASS FY11 budget was cut by 3% to $157 million, resulting in the suspension of the quarterly Farm Labor Survey.

Other impacts are likely, but have not yet been disclosed.

The disappointment of the budget cuts or freezes for the statistical agencies is amplified by the fact that many were in line to have their budgets increased for FY11. In early 2010, Obama proposed increasing the budgets of many of the statistical agencies, some up to 17% over the FY10 level (see http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2010/04/01/sciencepolicy_apr10). Congress approved parts of the increases for many agencies in their 2010 deliberations, but that support effectively expired when the new Congress took over the FY11 budget deliberations in January.

With the administration generally requesting the same increases for FY12 (see http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2011/04/01/adminfy12budget), the deliberations for FY12 will be another chance to voice support for the budget increases for many statistical agencies.

For more information or subsequent updates, go to the blog post “FY11 Budget Deal: Impacts on Science and Statistical Agency Budgets” in the ASA Community at http://community.amstat.org.
Section U: How Statistics Fits in at AAAS
Joan F. Hilton, AAAS Section U Secretary, 2007-2011

At this year’s annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), held in Washington DC over Presidents’ Day weekend, Section U—the Statistics Section of AAAS—celebrated its 50th anniversary. Following are some historical highlights.

The AAAS was founded in 1848, during the presidency of James K. Polk, when the United States comprised 30 states and six territories. The census of 1850 counted 23.2 million inhabitants. AAAS was the first permanent organization formed to promote the development of science and engineering at the national level and to represent the interests of all its disciplines. The 1874 (second) AAAS constitution identifies two sections of the association—A (mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, and mineralogy) and B (geology, zoology, botany, and anthropology)—and emphasizes the sections’ roles in forming the program at the annual meeting.

By 1885, the sections had subdivided, and Section I included the fields of economic science and statistics. However, the 1920 (third) constitution does not mention statistics among its sections.

Fast forward to 1961, when AAAS formed two new Sections: T, information and communication, and U, statistics. John F. Kennedy was the U.S. president and Hawaii had joined the union in 1959 as the 50th state, bringing the 1960 population to 183.3 million. In its journal Science, the association announced the following:

Although statistics, as a methodology, has long been part of AAAS activities, affiliated statistical organizations were necessarily associated with the section on mathematics (A) or the section on social and economic sciences (K). The new section will serve to correlate these organizations and help intensify the contributions of persons engaged in statistical work.

Morris B. Ullman, the first secretary of Section U, explained that the section on statistics arose from the vision of several statistical organizations and that its activities would be directed by their members:

This action of the Council … was the result of a proposal by the American Statistical Association, in which it was joined by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Biometric Society (ENAR), and the Psychometric Society. … The Section Committee, the principal administrative body, will consist of representatives of these organizations, together with four members chosen at large, a vice president of the AAAS (who will serve as chairman of the section), and a secretary chosen by the AAAS Board of Directors. … Current individual members of the AAAS who wish to be identified with Section U and nonmembers interested in joining the association should write to …”

Jerzy Neyman, the first chair of Section U, articulated the possible functions of the Section on Statistics in a 1962 essay in Science. While recognizing that compartmentalization is a prerequisite for making progress in one’s own field, he argued that “substantial progress can sometimes be achieved if a difficult problem is examined from a broader point of view, particularly if this creates the possibility of borrowing a method developed by another discipline.” Neyman recommended that Section U “concentrate on activities, as an integral part of AAAS, largely limited to the popularization and decompartmentalization of research — a field that is broad, fertile, and most attractive.”

To promote “fruitful intellectual cross-fertilization” between scientists and statisticians for the advancement of science, Neyman proposed that Section U offer sessions at the annual meeting “for informing the general public and other groups within AAAS of the use of statistics within various domains, including governmental agencies …” As a means of drawing statistical leaders to AAAS meetings, Neyman suggested that regional meetings of affiliated societies be held in conjunction with the AAAS annual meeting.

The 1973 (sixth and current) AAAS constitution, in describing the function of sections, continues to emphasize their role in forming sessions at AAAS annual meetings: “Under the general direction of the section secretary, and within the context of overall plans for scientific meetings of the association, each section committee may arrange such section contributions to those meetings as it deems desirable.” This constitution further indicates that representatives of affiliate societies are meant to co-direct AAAS sections:
Each section committee shall consist of (i) the section officers: the retiring section chairman, the section chairman, the section chairman-elect, and the section secretary; (ii) four members-at-large; (iii) one representative of each affiliate that is enrolled in the section; and (iv) the council delegate(s) of the corresponding electorate.

“The corresponding electorate” consists of AAAS members who have followed Morris B. Ullman’s advice and advised the association that they wish to be identified with Section U.

Leap forward to 2011, the 50th anniversary of Section U and the 163rd anniversary of AAAS. Barack Obama is president of the United States and our population has reached 308.7 million. AAAS has more than 130,000 members, of whom 70,000 have formally identified section(s) of interest. Among the latter, 1,802 members identify with Section U (20% as their primary section, 34% as secondary, and 46% as tertiary). Remarkably, at least one person who identifies with Section U specifies each of the other 23 sections of AAAS as their primary section. Thus, the AAAS continues to attract statisticians with diverse scientific interests.

Section U is affiliated with a variety of professional societies that also appoint representatives to other AAAS sections. These societies (Section U representatives) include the American Statistical Association (Robert Fay, Charmaine Dean), International Biometric Society (Hyune-Ju Kim), Institute of Mathematical Statistics (Jianqing Fan), Population Association of America (William Butz, Amy Tsui), Association for Women in Mathematics (Mary Gray), and Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences (Ronald Rosier). Twice a year, these representatives meet with the Section U Steering Group. Current members are Thomas Louis, Mitchell Gail, Joel Greenhouse, Jane Pendergast, Betz Halloran, Alan Karr, Ronald Spoeri, and Ken Wachter.

To read more, visit http://archives.aaas.org/exhibit/origins3.php. For information about the society, visit the AAAS website at www.aaas.org.
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The Operations Research Society of Eastern Africa (ORSEA) will host ORSEA 2011, the seventh of its annual conferences, at the Kenyatta International Conference Center in Nairobi, Kenya, from October 13–14.

The conference is the premier operations research event in Eastern Africa, and this year’s theme of “The Role of Operations Research in the National Visions Within the East African Community (EAC) and Regional Integration” will attract many operations researchers from the EAC countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. Participants from other African countries—as well as Europe, North America, South America, Asia, and the Pacific Rim—also are expected to participate.

Among other initiatives, this year’s conference will feature the first INFORMS/IFORS/ORSEA International Teaching Effectiveness Colloquium, consisting of workshops on innovative approaches to operations research education by renowned educators. It also will provide opportunities to exchange ideas across cultures to those deeply interested in operations research education.

ORSEA chair Isaac Mbeche of the University of Nairobi hopes conference delegates from outside the region will spend a few extra days in Kenya. Attractions include wildlife watching, hiking, nature safaris, and remote beaches. Cultural interaction can be experienced through the diverse cultures of the Maasai, Samburu, and 42 other Kenyan communities.

For more information about ORSEA 2011, email orsea@uonbi.ac.ke or admin@orsea.net.

Conference updates and information are available at www.orsea.net.

Former Indian President Lays Foundation Stone for Statistics Museum


The University of Hyderabad provided the land for the museum, and university vice chancellor Seyed E. Hasnain described the museum as one of a kind.

Before laying the stone, Abdul Kalam congratulated statistician C.R. Rao for “envisioning and providing the leadership for creation of such a unique institution in partnership with Hasnain.”

Abdul Kalam spoke at length about statistics and society, as well as his personal experience with statisticians in managing difficult programs. To read his entire speech, visit Abdul Kalam’s website at www.abdulkalam.com.
This issue of *Statistical Analysis and Data Mining* (SAM) is dedicated to papers from the field of symbolic data analysis (SDA), one of the emerging fields featured in the February issue of *SAM* in Arnold Goodman’s article, “Emerging Topics and Challenges for Statistical Analysis and Data Mining.” This field will come to dominate our thinking and our approach to statistical analyses as contemporary computational capabilities expand.

While there are many data sets (small or large) that are naturally symbolically valued, it is in handling massively large data sets that we will see a major role for symbolic data. Typically from aggregation directed by underlying scientific question(s), the resulting data sets perforce contain symbolic data. In its most basic description, the familiar classical realization of a random variable is represented by a single point in p-dimensional space, whereas a symbolically valued realization is a hypercube or distribution in p-dimensional space.

The concept of symbolic data was first introduced in 1987 by Edwin Diday, who at the time was engaged in research in clustering methodologies. He recognized early that summarizing data values inside a cluster retained limited information only about the cluster (e.g., cluster means), while considerable information (e.g., cluster internal variations) was completely lost. This led to the general concept of symbolic data. This was a radical concept at the time; yet, it is an expansively creative approach to thinking about data in new ways that retain more completely the knowledge and information contained therein. It also became quickly apparent that new methodologies for symbolic data realizations were essential.

Diday’s influence pervades all the contributions in this issue. The first two papers are review papers. “Brief Overview of Symbolic Data and Analytic Issues” is what an editorial board member called a “gentle introduction” to the field, restricting its content to illustrating the major types of symbolic data (modal multivalued, intervals, and histograms) and highlighting issues that are not usually present in classical data analyses. The paper also illustrates how other forms of complex data, such as fuzzy data, are quite a different domain, requiring different types of analytic methodologies. It concludes with a perspective of future research directions.

“Far Beyond the Classical Data Models: Symbolic Data Analysis” begins with a more technical introduction to symbolic data, how they arise, and their structures with numerous examples. Then, the authors provide an extensive review of the current state of the art, most especially available methodologies to handle a range of statistical analyses for various situations.

The third and fourth papers deal with aspects of principal component analysis. “Principal Component Analysis with Interval Imputed Missing Values” estimates missing values as interval values in a way that allows for the degree of uncertainty in the missingness. Then, the so-called vertices method for principal component analysis is applied. Also, new theoretical results are derived to support the methodology.

Much of current methodology in SDA has dealt with interval-valued observations. “The Quantile Method for Symbolic Principal Component Analysis” breaks new ground by subdividing modal multivalued data and histogram data into quantiles (more general than, but reminiscent of, Tukey’s five-number summaries). The author develops monotone structures characterized by nesting joint regions; hence, traditional principal component analyses proceed.

The fifth paper, “Clustering Large Data Sets Described with Discrete Distributions and Its Application on TIMSS Data Set,” presents two clustering methods—the adapted leaders method and the adapted agglomerative hierarchical clustering Ward’s method—for data for which each realization is a discrete distribution. The new methodology is applied to a TIMSS data set.

Time series in the symbolic setting is a difficult problem and has received little attention. “Smoothing Methods for Histogram-Valued Time Series: An Application to Value-at-Risk,” tackles both time series and histogram data. Using the notion of a barycenter histogram, the authors develop a one-step-ahead histogram forecast applied to a financial value-at-risk data.

The last paper, “Principal Component Analysis for Interval-Valued Observations,” expands upon the vertices method and introduces new ways to visualize and interpret the resulting principal component hypercubes by placing bounds on the contributions of each vertex; it also shows how results obtained by using classical surrogates are inadequate.

These articles provide a small window into SDA’s dynamic future.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NSF and NIH: Funding for FY11

Keith Crank, ASA Research and Graduate Education Manager

In my April article, I wrote about President Obama’s budget request for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12). I also mentioned that the FY11 appropriations had not been completed and the government was operating under a continuing resolution. That has finally changed. The full-year appropriations have been passed and signed into law. (The bill was still called a continuing resolution, but this time it covered the remainder of the fiscal year.)

The full-year continuing resolution was completed on April 14, just in time for Congress to go into a two-week recess. So, what did they finally agree to?

For the most part, the full-year continuing resolution was simply an extension of the previous continuing resolutions. However, they did “find” about $37.6 billion to cut from the previous funding. In other words, the full-year continuing resolution is $37.6 billion below the FY10 appropriations. I use the term “find” loosely here, since the completion of the data collection for the 2010 census freed up about $6 billion. (However, Congress chose to use $5 billion of that on additional spending for the Department of Defense, which means that much of the reduction is real.)

The appropriations for the National Science Foundation (NSF) are $6.8 billion. Of this, $5.5 billion is for research and related activities and $0.9 billion is for education and human resources. (The remaining appropriations are primarily for running the agency.) Overall, this is a 1% decrease from the FY10 appropriations, but it is much better than the $6.6 billion proposed by the House (H.R.1) back in February. As I mentioned in my April article, the request for FY12 is $7.8 billion.

Given the current situation in Congress, I doubt the FY12 appropriations for NSF will come anywhere close to this number. In fact, the Obama administration has backed off from its planned doubling of the NSF budget. In an April 9 blog post, the administration states, “Even though we will no longer double the funding of key research and development agencies, you will still see strong investments in National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Science Foundation, and the Office of Science.” (See www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/04/09/details-bipartisan-budget-deal)

For the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the results are similar. The FY11 appropriations for NIH are $30.7 billion, compared to a FY10 appropriation of $31.0 billion. This is a 1% decrease from the FY10 appropriations and a 4% decrease from the FY11 request. But, it is much better than the $29.4 billion proposed in H.R.1. Since the FY12 request for NIH has only a modest increase (and is below the FY11 request), it’s possible that the appropriations will be close to the request. However, the Department of Defense appears to be the only part of the federal government that is immune to cuts.

To contact me, send an email to keith@amstat.org. Questions or comments about this article, as well as suggestions for future articles, are always welcome.

ICESIV

Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICESIV)

Le Centre Sheraton Montréal Hotel
Montréal, Québec, Canada
June 11–14, 2012

Visit the ICESIV web page at www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012 for details.
How to control costs of the 2020 decennial census dominated testimony and questioning during an April 6 Senate hearing, titled “Census: Learning Lessons from 2010, Planning for 2020.” The many approaches the U.S. Census Bureau is taking to address the cost of the next decennial census—while maintaining data quality—and realizing that prudent funding for 2020 decennial census planning now will save money down the road will be part of the message when trying to convince Congress to support the Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) Census Bureau budget request.

Chaired by Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE), chair of the Census Bureau authorizing subcommittee, and joined by subcommittee ranking member Sen. Scott Brown (R-MA) and Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK), the first panel of the hearing featured Census Bureau Director Robert Groves, Commerce Department Inspector General Todd Zinser, and Government Accountability Office (GAO) Strategic Issues Director Robert Goldenkoff. Remarkably, the oversight witnesses—Zinser and Goldenkoff—had little criticism of Groves’s strategy for the 2020 decennial census planning.

With the cost of enumerating households rising from $16 in 1970 to $98 in 2010—both figures in 2010 dollars—GAO has estimated that the 2020 decennial could rise to as much as $30 billion if the current design model is used. The 2010 decennial census cost $13 billion. Groves reported the Census Bureau’s goal to “design a 2020 census that costs less per housing unit than the 2010 census, while maintaining the quality of the results.”

Among the three witnesses, the following common themes for how to reign in census costs emerged:

- Collect census data through multiple modes of technology to make responding to the questionnaire as convenient as possible, whether the modes be the phone, handheld device, Internet, or face-to-face. Implicit to these capabilities is having information technology architecture that can support multiple modes of data collection, including modes yet to emerge.
Use administrative records (e.g., drivers licenses or records from the Veterans Administration or the Social Security Administration) to supplement the enumeration process.

Continuously update address lists and maps, instead of intensely pushing toward decade’s end.

Risk and operations management changes such as shorter and smaller tests to ensure subsequent tests can incorporate test results, or systems development that doesn’t require first-use perfection.

Execute system and procedure innovations that benefit the entire institution.

Better cost-estimating and budget processes.

With spending cuts dominating congressional budget discussions, it will be a challenge to convince lawmakers to fully fund the FY12 request for the Census Bureau. For FY11, the Census Bureau was funded for $93 million less than their request. The FY12 request—$242 million less than the FY11 request because of 2010 decennial census wrap-up—contains $67 million for 2020 decennial planning, $9 million to enhance use of the administrative records, and funds for exploring the sample size of the American Community Survey and executing the Economic Census and the Census of Governments.

Mindful of the current fiscal environment, the FY12 budget request contains $20 million in savings across the Census Bureau from administrative changes and $16 million in savings from eliminating nine programs, including the Statistical Abstract program.

With the role Census Bureau data play in informing policy and guiding more than $500 billion in federal spending, as well as the potential to save money on the 2020 Census through prudent investments now, there is a strong case to be made for fully funding the FY12 Census Bureau requested budget. The challenge is making sure lawmakers hear the case repeatedly from a variety of valued sources. ASA members can and should play an important role in communicating this message to their U.S. senators and representatives.


### Act to Improve Statistics Education, Literacy Introduced

**Support STAT Act of 2011**

Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA) recently introduced the Statistics Teaching, Aptitude, and Training Act of 2011 (STAT Act) to improve statistics education and statistical literacy. The STAT Act would provide funding for the development of state academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and professional development for teachers in statistics. It also would support building national capacity for statistics education by disseminating information about model statistics education programs and conducting studies on the effectiveness of methods of statistics education.

Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM)

Statistics Workshop for K-12 Mathematics and Science Teachers

(www.amstat.org/education/mwm)

Sponsored by the American Statistical Association (ASA)

2011 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM)*

Based on the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (corestandards.org) and Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE): A Pre-K–12 Curriculum Framework (www.amstat.org/education/gaise)

Dates: Tuesday, August 2, and Wednesday, August 3, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Places: Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139-1820, and neighboring hotels (workshop meeting room location to be announced)

Audience: K–12 mathematics and science teachers. Multiple mathematics/science teachers from the same school are especially encouraged to attend. Note: Experienced AP Statistics teachers should register for the Beyond AP Statistics (BAPS) workshop. See www.amstat.org/education/baps for more information.

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 Common Core standards, GAISE recommendations, and NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics.

Presenters: GAISE report authors and prominent statistics educators

Format: Tuesday: Grades K–4 and 9–12 sessions
Wednesday: Grades 5–8 session
One-day pass to attend activities at JSM (statistics education sessions, poster sessions, exhibit hall)
Activity-based sessions, including lesson plan development

Provided: Refreshments
Complimentary one-day pass to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings
Lodging reimbursement (up to a specified amount) for teachers from outside the Miami area
Handouts
Certificate of participation from the ASA certifying professional development hours
Optional graduate credit

Cost: The course fee for the two days is $50. Note: Course attendees do not need 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 statisticians and 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 is 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, poster sessions, and the exhibit hall.
At the encouragement of 2010 ASA President Sastry Pantula, I am summarizing the comments I made at a commencement address in 1995 to the department of statistics at North Carolina State University (NCSU). I hope you find them as useful as he did.

Let me share with you some of the philosophies I learned from the founder of our department, Gertrude Cox, who was a visionary and had an appreciation for multidisciplinary research even before that term became fashionable. Statistics is in one sense a rather unique field. While all sciences are interlinked in that research in one field builds on knowledge from many fields, the actual research projects in many cases are fairly isolated and survive under their individual umbrellas. Chemists can study compounds in their corner of the world without regard to what others are doing. Plant taxonomists can classify plants without interacting with chemists. Soil scientists, while they need to understand the chemistry and physics of soils, need not collaborate closely with physicists and chemists to do good research.

Statistics, on the other hand, is unique in the degree to which the vitality of the science is dependent on close linkages with other sciences. Why is this? Statistics is essentially a set of tools—tools for research, data gathering, and interpretation. It is a somewhat sophisticated set of tools, but, nevertheless, a set of tools. And, it is impossible to build a better tool without thoroughly understanding the problem the tool is supposed to address. Statisticians must interact closely with researchers and practitioners in other fields, if we are to make our statistical tools relevant to the rest of society. Thus, the linkage with other sciences is essential to the life of statistical science.

Cox clearly saw the need for this close interaction when she formed this department. One of her conditions for coming here was that her department of statistics be required to provide statistical services to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. This close collaboration and the missionary work she and her faculty did to promote the use of statistics in the agricultural and life sciences were the key to building one of the strongest applied statistics programs in the world.

Please note that what appeared to be a service provided by the statistics department for the rest of the college was, in reality, a major benefit to the department. In this sense, one can say that statistics as a science profits most by giving. We must make sure that philosophy continues.

I want to convey a couple of my basic tenants, which I feel are important to you and your future careers. I have couched these in terms of an opportunity, a warning, and an obligation.

Opportunity
Your degree in statistics has equipped you for a broad set of employment options. I can think of no other degree that opens so many doors for employment in so many areas of expertise. Every science, governmental agency, and industrial endeavor has many activities that could benefit from appropriate applications of statistical methods. This breadth of application of
If you are going to be a successful statistician, you must always be “going to school”—learning new techniques, developing ways to answer new questions, etc.

statistics is clearly an opportunity for you in your initial employment, but it is also an opportunity for you in your career advancement. The statistician in an organization has the opportunity to work with many departments and projects within that organization. Because of this, he/she is in one of the better positions for developing a broad understanding of the entire business. With proper preparation on your part, this provides long-term opportunities for promotion within the company. There have been many occasions in which the statistician moved on to become one of the executives, such as director of research, because of this. Be prepared to take advantage of these opportunities.

Warning
We have all heard the labeling for the three kinds of lies: lies, damn lies, and statistics. This labeling could have its origin from either of two places:

(1) To the “statistically disadvantaged,” who may not understand the workings of statistical methods, some of the results and conclusions from data analysis may appear somewhat magical and the conclusions do not agree with their preconceived ideas. It is easy to see in such cases why someone might think statistics is just a sophisticated way of lying.

(2) Alternatively, it could just as likely have come from the misuse or misapplication of statistical methods by dedicated individuals who simply did not completely understand the theory and methodology. I do not mean to make disparaging remarks about other scientists, but we often see this when scientists, based on introductory courses in statistics, attempt to serve as their own statisticians.

We, as trained statisticians, contribute to this impression of statistics as a perhaps sophisticated way of lying when we fail to understand the theory and methodology, or fail to keep abreast of new developments, and simply apply the techniques to which we have been exposed by cookbook methods.

My warning to you is two-fold: 1. Your education in statistics is not complete with you having obtained this degree. There will always be data that do not quite “fit” the recipe you might have learned or problems that do not ask the “standard” question. If you are going to be a successful statistician, you must always be “going to school”—learning new techniques, developing ways to answer new questions, etc.

Paradoxically, if you are a successful statistician, you may begin to feel discouraged and inadequate because you never seem to know everything you need to know to do your job properly. This is a good sign; just don’t let it get you down. You must be forever learning, or you will quickly become obsolete.

2. Your integrity is essential for your success as a statistician. You will have access to the basic data, you will do editing of the data, you will be the one who extracts the essential information from the data, and you will often be the one who makes the fundamental conclusions. If management or your scientific peers ever have any reason to question your integrity, they will lose faith quickly in what you claim the data have to say. Therefore, it is essential that you carefully guard your objectivity and your integrity.

Even if your aim in “doctoring the data” was to satisfy management at one turn, management would then be aware of what you are willing to do and have every reason to question your results at the next turn. Your integrity is essential, even if it means speaking up to management and possibly losing your job. You must uphold the integrity of your profession, and, not incidentally, you must live with yourself.

Obligation
Finally, I would like to point out an obligation you have to yourself and your clients. As the statistician, you will be working with scientists, engineers, or individuals in other areas of expertise. The easiest method of operation (the lazy statistician’s way) is to sit back with the attitude that you know the statistics and it is the responsibility of the scientist (or your client) to come to you with the problem, interpret the scientific lingo so that you can understand what is being done, state for you the statistical question in which he is interested, and finally take the results of your statistical tests and go away.
The problem with this approach is that you become nothing but a “computing machine”—a technician. You really contribute nothing to the process that couldn’t be done with a good computer program. You are not only replaceable, but your position may soon be considered disposable. You never really become part of the research team. And, further, you bring no credit to the field of statistics.

One of the more common complaints from employers is that the statistician does not understand the science or the process. This was not as much of a problem in the earlier days of statistics because most trained statisticians were experts in some field before they became statisticians and then they went back to work in that original field. Such cases are rare these days. The dominant field from which statistics students come is mathematics, and many will have had only limited exposure to the science or engineering field in which they end up applying their statistical expertise.

Clearly, the newly trained statistician cannot be expected to be literate in all possible fields of application in which he might be employed, but there is an important attitude that can be imparted. It is the attitude that you are the missionary taking statistical methods to the field. It is the attitude that you will get to know and understand the science or the process and the lingo that goes with it. It is the attitude that you will go to the scientist and interpret the statistics for him/her, rather than expecting him/her to learn the statistics. It is this willingness to understand the science that will set you apart and eventually make you an indispensable member of the team, not just a technician. Your familiarity with the area of application will lead you to see new applications of statistics and new statistical methods that the scientist would not have imagined. It is this attitude that will make your statistical career exciting.

And so, in summary, your degrees open the doors for great opportunities. Make the most of them by keeping abreast of your field, protecting your integrity, and making yourself an indispensable member of the team.
It has been an exciting year preparing for the Joint Statistical Meetings that will take place in Miami Beach from July 30 to August 4. I have been ably assisted not just by the elected section and society chairs, but also by friends who agreed to work as General Methodology chairs and the poster chair. Andrew Gelman of Columbia University and Brian Wiens of Alcon Labs are the General Methodology chairs. Benmei Liu of the National Cancer Institute is the poster chair.
Andrew arranged all the introductory overview lectures for 2011, while Brian arranged the late-breaking sessions and Benmei invited posters and organized all the posters. In addition, Brian, Andrew, and I all organized General Methodology sessions that match our interests. My personal favorite, of course, is a session I organized about value-added assessments of teachers. We honor Deming each year. What would he have had to say in this area where presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama are in substantial agreement?

These sessions are open to all registered attendees. So, reserve your flights, pack your bags, and join us at JSM in Miami Beach.

**Introductory overview lectures.** Political arguments and political representation often rely on statistics, whether it’s counting votes, measuring public opinion, or assessing the effects of policies. Sunday afternoon, Andrew will discuss how models of political behavior can be improved by moving toward a more data-based perspective.

Evidence-based medicine has the potential to transform health care, to focus resources on what works and what works best for individual people. Monday morning, Chris Schmid will discuss some of the statistical tools that can make this happen.

Data visualization lives at the intersection of science, graphic design, and online journalism. Tuesday morning, Dianne Cook will take us from the fundamentals of information display to the future of dynamic graphics.

Statistics is central to understanding gene mapping and gene expression. Wednesday morning, Cavan Reilly will talk about the technical challenges involved in moving from data to genes to learning about genetic variation relating to disease.

**Posters.** More than 350 posters (including invited, topic-contributed, and contributed) will be presented at JSM 2011. They will spread across five sessions from August 1 at 10:30 a.m. to August 3 at 12:20 p.m. One Data Expo competition and one Statistical Significance competition will take place for pre-entered posters. August 1 at 10:30, nine select invited posters will be presented.

**Late-breaking sessions.** There will be two late-breaking sessions for JSM 2011. Late-breaking sessions are for timely topics that are of interest to the statistics community, especially for topics that could not have been developed into sessions when the other invited session proposals were submitted in September 2010.

The first late-breaking session will take place August 1 at 10:30 a.m. This session will describe the Heritage Health Prize, a competition with a $3.5 million award for the best prediction of hospital admission based on historical claims data. The competition opened April 4 and the entry deadline is April 4, 2013. The session will introduce the competition, describe the objectives of the competition, and discuss modern statistical approaches that may be useful for modeling the available data.

The second late-breaking session will take place on August 3 at 8:30 a.m. This session will discuss a recent United States Supreme Court decision to use the lack of statistical significance to justify nondisclosure of data by a publicly traded company when those data are nonpublic and potentially material. The legal and statistical rationale and business impact will make this session of interest to statisticians from many specialties.

Visit the online program at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/onlineprogram for updated times and locations. ■
**A. John Bailer**, ASA Board of Directors representative from the Council of Sections and distinguished professor and chair of statistics at Miami University, was awarded the university’s Benjamin Harrison Medallion during the May 7 commencement ceremony.

Miami’s Benjamin Harrison Medallion is presented to members of Miami’s faculty or staff who have made outstanding national contributions to education.

Bailer has been recognized for excellence in teaching, research, and service at Miami with other awards such as the 2009 Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate Instruction and Mentoring and 2005 Distinguished Scholar of the Graduate Faculty.

Visit the Miami University website at [www.miami.muohio.edu/news/article/view/15223](http://www.miami.muohio.edu/news/article/view/15223) to read more about Bailer and the Harrison Medallion.

**Montserrat “Montse” Fuentes** was recently named head of the department of statistics at North Carolina State University, effective July 1. She replaces ASA President Sastry Pantula, who vacated the position to serve as director of the National Science Foundation’s Division of Mathematical Sciences in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate.

Fuentes currently serves on the Institute of Mathematical Science Council, as a scientific adviser to the Environmental Protection Agency’s Integrated Human Exposure Committee, and as the U.S. representative on the board of directors of the International Environmetrics Society.

In an email to faculty and staff in the department, Dan Solomon, dean of the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, noted, “Montse brings excellent academic credentials and has the vision, determination, and dedication to lead.”

Fuentes was elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2008 and is the editor of the *Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics*, a publication of the ASA and International Biometric Society.

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International recently announced that [Nilanjana Chatterjee](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1048-5252&linktype=offers) won the 2010 Best Paper Award for “Identification and Estimation of Nonlinear Models Using Two Samples With Nonclassical Measurement Errors.”

Visit the *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics* website at [www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1048-5252&linktype=offers](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1048-5252&linktype=offers) to view the papers.
Obituaries

Thomas R. Ten Have

Thomas Ten Have, a professor in the division of biostatistics of the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania, passed away May 1.

A member of the American Statistical Association, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, International Biometrics Society, Society for Epidemiological Research, and American Public Health Association, he also was associate editor for Biometrics and associate editor for the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series C.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ten Have’s memory can be made to Philadelphia Futures at www.philadelphiafutures.org, Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center at www.chop.edu/service/phila-collaborative-violence-prevention-center, or ACHIEVEability at www.achieveability.org.

Elizabeth May

Elizabeth May, former acting president at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, died on March 27 after a long illness. She was 103.

May was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the American Economic Association, the American Statistical Association, and the Society for International Development.

J. Laurie Snell

Submitted by Dan Rockmore

J. Laurie Snell, ASA Fellow and Benjamin Cheney Professor of Mathematics Emeritus at Dartmouth College, passed away on March 19 at the age of 86.

Snell taught at Dartmouth College for 51 years and was an inspiration and friend to many mathematicians and statisticians. He was widely known for an outstanding body of research in probability and its applications in the social sciences, exemplary expository writing, and curricular innovation and inspirational leadership as a teacher of probability and statistics extending five decades.

Snell earned his PhD in mathematics from the University of Illinois under the direction of J. L. Doob and was a Fine Instructor at Princeton University before being recruited to Dartmouth by John Kemeny. With that, he began a long and fruitful collaboration and friendship with Kemeny, which produced, among many other things, two classic textbooks, Introduction to Finite Mathematics and Finite Markov Chains.

Snell was widely known for introducing new technologies into teaching, from the significant use of BASIC in Introduction to Probability to what was, at the time, a revolutionary use of the Web in his distribution of the widely read Chance News, initiated in 1992 as a monthly newsletter containing interesting exegeses of statistically relevant news items. Before passing away, Snell migrated Chance News to wiki format and it is now available at www.causeweb.org/wiki/chance. While many thought Chance News must have had a full staff behind it, it was, in fact, mainly the product of Snell’s tireless efforts. His energy, friendship, and intellect will be missed.

Joseph Steinberg

Submitted by Seth Steinberg

Joseph Steinberg, 91, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, died at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland, on April 9 due to complications suffered from a fall.

A DC-area resident since 1940, Steinberg served for many years as a high-ranking statistician in several federal government agencies. He was born in New York City on March 22, 1920, and graduated from Evander Childs High School in Bronx, New York, in 1935. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from City College of New York with a degree in mathematics in 1939.

In 1940, Steinberg began to work at the U.S. Census Bureau as a statistician and, following a two-year position at the Social Security Administration, spent the next 19 years at the Census Bureau, where he served for several years as director of the Statistical Methods Division. In 1963, he returned to the Social Security Administration as chief mathematical statistician. In 1972, he joined the Bureau of Labor Statistics as an assistant commissioner, a position he held until his retirement from the federal government in 1975.

After his time in the government, Steinberg formed a consulting firm, Survey Design, Inc., for which he served as president until 1995. In addition, from the early 1940s until 1974, he taught a course on survey sampling each semester at the USDA Graduate School. He was a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Ruth (Cohen) Steinberg of Gaithersburg; his son, Seth (Terry) of North Potomac; and his grandchildren, Michelle and David of North Potomac. He was preceded in death by a son, Steven.
Raymond J. Carroll Young Investigator Award

Nominations for the 2011 Raymond J. Carroll Young Investigator Award will be accepted until August 15. This award is presented biannually by the department of statistics at Texas A&M University to an outstanding young researcher in statistical science. Candidates must have completed their PhD within the previous 10 years and demonstrated outstanding scholarly contributions in statistical methodology and applications. Nominations must be written and include a curriculum vita and supporting documents, such as letters of recommendation. Self-nominations are encouraged.

Electronic nominations are preferred and can be sent to Jeff Hart at hart@stat.tamu.edu or Texas A&M University, Department of Statistics, 3143 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-3143.

9th International Conference on Health Policy Statistics

October 5–7
The Ritz-Carlton
Cleveland, Ohio

Focusing on advancing methods to improve health care through various studies and the quantitative analysis of data, ICHPS offers:

- Invited and contributed sessions
- Workshops intended to provide research training and career development in the methods, resources, and applications at the forefront of contemporary health policy research

See www.amstat.org/meetings/ichps/2011 for details.

Looking for a Job?

Visit the ASA JobWeb—a targeted job database and résumé-posting service.

www.amstat.org/jobweb

Organized by the Health Policy Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association
The American Statistical Association and CHANCE now bring you “The Statistics Forum,” a blog that provides everyone the opportunity to participate freely in discussions about probability and statistics and the role they play in important and interesting topics.

**CHANCE** online also includes:

- A fresh new design
- The ability to leave comments about articles
- An easy-to-use search feature
- Archived articles and columns

Check out CHANCE today online at [http://chance.amstat.org](http://chance.amstat.org) or log in to ASA Members Only for full access.

Not currently a subscriber? Start your subscription today. ASA members pay only $30 a year.
section news

Biometrics
The Biometrics Section will offer two continuing education courses and six invited sessions during the Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami Beach, Florida. Check the JSM 2011 online program at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/onlineprogram for updates on locations and times.

Invited session ideas also are welcome for the ENAR 2012 meeting, to take place April 1–4 in Washington, DC. Send your ideas to ENAR 2011 program chair, Jason Fine, at jfine@bios.unc.

The section also needs ideas for JSM 2012 invited sessions, to take place July 28 to August 2 in San Diego, California. Ideas can be emailed to JSM 2011 program chair, Tianxi Cai, at tcai@hsph.harvard.edu. Submit ideas for short courses to continuing education chair, Annie Qu, at anniequ@illinois.edu.

Biopharmaceutical
The Biopharmaceutical Section and the NY/NJ Metropolitan Section of the American Society for Quality are cosponsoring the 67th Annual Deming Conference on Applied Statistics, to be held December 5–9 at the Tropicana Casino Hotel and Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The meeting is a three-day conference followed by two parallel two-day short courses. Registration opens August 1.

Experts from academia, government, and industry will give 12 half-day tutorials on topics such as the following:

- Data Monitoring Committees: Areas of Consensus and Controversy
- Interpreting Changes, Responder Analyses, and Statistical Considerations for Patient-Reported Outcomes
- Management of Regulatory Data Standards
- Group Sequential Design of Clinical Trials
- Comparing Groups: Randomization and Bootstrap Methods Using R
- Clinical Prediction Models
- An Introduction to Adaptive Designs with Applications to Clinical Trials

The two-day short courses are Modeling Survival Data: Extending the Cox Model, led by Terry M. Therneau, and Novel Approaches to Multiple Test Problems, with Applications to Adaptive Designs, led by Frank Bretz, Willi Maurer, and Jeff Maca.

All related books will be offered at the conference with significant discounts. Details can be found at www.demingconference.com.

Statistics and the Environment
Members are invited to join the section’s business meeting and mixer, tentatively scheduled for August 2 at JSM 2011 in Miami Beach, Florida.

In addition to the five invited sessions and two roundtables announced in the May issue of Amstat News, ENVR is sponsoring several topic-contributed sessions. For details, visit the JSM online program at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/onlineprogram.

The section also requests topics for JSM 2012 invited sessions. Submit ideas by email to ENVR Program Chair Jarrett Barber at Jarrett.Barber@asu.edu. For detailed section news, visit http://magazines.amstat.org/?cat=17.

To list your sections’ news in *Amstat News*, send an email to managing editor Megan Murphy at megan@amstat.org with the details.
Government Statistics Section
Have you started planning for the 2011 meetings in Miami Beach, Florida? The Government Statistics and Social Statistics sections offer the following 10 suggestions to help you get the most out of your JSM experience:

- Prepare ahead of time
- Be informed
- Plan your schedule in advance
- Know your section’s sessions
- Know your section’s activities
- Meet the section officers
- Express your opinion
- Find out what your association is doing
- Do something new
- Make your travel plans

For details, visit http://magazine.amstat.org/?cat=17.

Quality and Productivity
The Section on Quality and Productivity (Q&P) has an exciting line-up of five contributed and four topic-contributed sessions scheduled for the 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings. For details, visit http://magazine.amstat.org/?cat=17 or check out the JSM 2011 online program at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/onlineprogram.

Survey Research Methods Section
The ASA Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) will sponsor or cosponsor more than 50 sessions at the 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami Beach, Florida. These sessions include invited papers and panels, topic-contributed papers and panels, and contributed papers. In addition, SRMS is cosponsoring poster sessions. For a full listing of all SRMS-sponsored sessions, visit the JSM 2011 online program at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/onlineprogram. To view section news in its entirety, visit http://magazine.amstat.org/?cat=17.

San Antonio Chapter
The 2011 Don Owen Award was presented to Dennis K. J. Lin by John Schoolfield, chapter president, on March 25 during the Conference of Texas Statisticians. Zhiliang Ying of the department of statistics at Columbia University nominated Lin.

Details about Lin’s career and the Don Owen Award can be found at http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/category/membernews.
The following events are the latest additions to the ASA’s online calendar of events. Announcements are accepted from education and not-for-profit organizations only. To view the complete list of statistics meetings and workshops, visit www.amstat.org/dateline.

* Indicates events sponsored by the ASA or one of its sections, chapters, or committees

2011

July

5–7—Leeds Annual Statistical Workshop 2011 (LASR 2011), Leeds, United Kingdom
For more information, visit www.maths.leeds.ac.uk/lasr2011 or contact Jochen Voss, Department of Statistics, University of Leeds, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, International LS2 9JT, United Kingdom; +44 113 3435125; workshop@maths.leeds.ac.uk.

September

5–9—Epidemiological Methods and Analysis, Prague, Czech Republic
For more information, visit www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology/students or contact Hynek Pikhart, 1-19 Torrington Place, London, International WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom; +44 (0)20 76791906; h.pikhart@ucl.ac.uk.

For more information, visit www.amstat.org/meetings/fdaworkshop or contact Cheryl Behrens, 732 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 684-1221; cheryl@amstat.org.

October

12–14—Conference on Risk Assessment and Evaluation of Predictions, Silver Spring, Maryland
For information, visit http://brac.umd.edu/~Risk2011/Main.htm or contact Mei-Ling Ting Lee, 2234R SPH Building, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, College Park, MD 20742; (301) 405-4581; mitlee@umd.edu.

For details, visit www.orsea.net or contact Gituro Wainaina, Kenya’s Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat, Nairobi, International, Kenya; wainainagituro@vision2030.go.ke.

20–21—Emerging Methodological Issues in Population-Based Chronic Disease Research, Seattle, Washington
For more information, visit www.prenticesymposium.org or contact Noelle Noble, 1100 Fairview Ave. North, M2-B500, Seattle, WA 98109; (206) 667-4147; nnoble@fhcrc.org.

December

For information, visit www.sastat.org.za or contact Sonali Das, Building 2A, CSIR, P.O. Box 395, Pretoria, International 0001, South Africa; 0027128413713; sdas@csir.co.za.

2012

January

1–6—22nd Annual Conference of the International Environmetrics Society, Hyderabad, India
For more information, visit www.ties2012.com or contact Subba Rao Tata, Department of Mathematics, University of Manchester, Manchester, International M60 1QD, UK; 44 161 200 3664; tata.subbarao@gmail.com.
**Florida**

The department of statistics at Florida State University invites applications for a one-year teaching position starting August 2011. Please see [http://stat.fsu.edu/position/TeachingPosition.php](http://stat.fsu.edu/position/TeachingPosition.php) for info on how to apply. Florida State University is an Equal Opportunity/Access/Affirmative Action Employer.

**New York**

Assistant Professors, Department of Biostatistics, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

Required: doctoral degree in biostatistics or statistics, strong record of independent and collaborative research and teaching, excellent communication skills. Desirable: statistical informatics, functional data analysis, statistical methods for complex adaptive systems, aging, life course processes, environmental data. For more information, see and apply here: https://academicjobs.columbia.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/FrameSet.jsp?time=1300226460146 academicjobs.columbia.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/FrameSet.jsp?time=1300226460146. Columbia University is an equal opportunity employer.

Winthrop-University Hospital seeks senior biostatistician for Biostatistics & Epidemiology Consultation Unit.

Requires: doctorate in statistics or biostatistics, experience in medical research, grant preparation, collaboration w/clinical investigators, scientists, scholarly publications that would support an associate professor or professor appointment at Stony Brook Medical School. Replies to: Donald Brand, PhD, Office of Health Outcomes Research, Winthrop-University Hospital, 222 Station Plaza North, Suite 300, Mineola, NY 11501. Email: outcomes@winthrop.org. EOE.

**Oregon**

Electrical Geodesics, Inc. seeks to hire a statistician for our company in Eugene, OR. Successful candidate will be responsible for developing new signal analysis.

Professional Opportunity listings may not exceed 65 words, plus equal opportunity information. The deadline for their receipt is the 20th of the month two months prior to when the ad is to be published (e.g., May 20 for the July issue). Ads will be published in the next available issue following receipt.

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 website (www.amstat.org). Vacancy listings will appear on the website 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.

**Rates:** $320 for nonprofit organizations (with proof of nonprofit status), $475 for all others. Member discounts are not given. For display and online advertising rates, go to www.amstat.org/ads.

Listings will be invoiced following publication. All payments should be made to the American Statistical Association. All material should be sent to Amstat News, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1943; fax (703) 684-2036; email advertise@amstat.org.

Employers are expected to acknowledge all responses resulting from publication of their ads. Personnel advertising is accepted 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 website at www.amstat.org/jobweb.

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**The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**

**Department of Epidemiology**

**SENIOR BIOSTATISTICIAN**

The Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health seeks a biostatistician to work as part of a data coordinating center study team and collaborate with epidemiologists, statisticians, project coordinators and investigators in a variety of fields to analyze and manage data with the aim of scientific publication. The successful applicant will contribute to the development and application of statistical methods to address research needs in a long-term, nationwide cohort study of kidney disease in children and a clinical trial of cardiovascular imaging in the Division of Cardiology of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Applicants must have a Masters Degree in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Public Health or related discipline and research experience is preferred. A strong background in statistical principles and data analysis are required with knowledge of Stata, SAS, S-plus or R. Opportunities to present work and coauthor publications in statistical and substantive journals necessitate excellent oral and written communication skills. Experience with manuscript and presentation preparation is desirable. The individual will be responsible for multiple initiatives and must be self directed and able to work efficiently.

Start date is flexible; a successful applicant may commence work as early as July 1st, 2011 and preferable before September 1st, 2011. For more detailed job description please go to our website at http://jobs.jhu.edu and apply online. Please select job number 47941 to apply. We offer a competitive salary and we have an excellent benefit program, including tuition remission and tuition grant for dependents. The successful candidate for this position will be subject to a pre-employment background check.

Johns Hopkins University is an EO/AA employer committed to recruiting, supporting, and fostering a diverse community.
2011 ASA VIDEO COMPETITION

“Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics”
The American Statistical Association invites submissions of original digital videos that celebrate the many and varied achievements and roles of statisticians.

All submissions must be the original design and creation of the entrants and must not infringe upon anyone’s copyright protections (see www.youtube.com/t/howto_copy for copyright guidelines).

The deadline for submission of videos is JULY 15, 2011.

Each entry will be judged on two equally weighted criteria: quality of statistical content and entertainment value.

Submissions are limited to five minutes in length.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning entries. First place: $1,000; second place: $350; third place: $150.

All student entrants for the first-, second-, and third-place winning videos will be offered a one-year student membership to the ASA.

In submitting a video, entrants agree that the video may be displayed by the ASA, featured in its publications, and included on its website.

Winners will be announced at the Joint Statistical Meetings to be held in Miami, Florida, July 30 through August 4, 2011. Entrants need not be present to win.

A completed online entry form must be submitted with every entry. Please contact Tom Short (tshort@jcu.edu) to receive a code that will permit you to upload your video to the competition’s YouTube site.

Members of the ASA 2011 Public Awareness Workgroup will serve as judges for the competition. Decisions by the judges are final.

Links to sample videos and instructions for how to submit entries are available at www.amstat.org/youtube.

Members of the American Statistical Association’s 2011 Public Awareness Workgroup, ASA employees, ASA directors, and their immediate family members are ineligible to receive awards in the competition.
Texas

PhD Statistician. Assistant professor to work in the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS) (Houston CTSA Program) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H). All areas of statistics are considered. Interested candidates should send copies of their transcripts, CV, and names and contact information for three references to Dr. M. H. Rahbar, Director, Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Research Design Core, CCTS, UTHSC-H, via Mohammad.H.Rahbar@uth.tmc.edu. The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston is an EO/AA employer. M/F/D/V. This is a security sensitive position and thereby subject to Texas Education

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The Department of Biostatistics at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) is recruiting for a tenure-eligible assistant professor position. Focus in any methodological/application area is welcome, including but not limited to: statistical genomics, cancer epidemiology, clinical trials, bioinformatics, spatial data analysis, mixed effects models, survey sampling methodology or Bayesian methodology. Candidates will be expected to maintain extramural grant support, teach and advise graduate students, and provide departmental and university service.

The VCU Department of Biostatistics consists of 15 full-time faculty at the Assistant Professor level or higher and offers both M.S. and Ph.D. programs in biostatistics, including a concentration in Genomic Biostatistics and a M.S. in Clinical Research and Biostatistics Concentration. In addition to other computational resources at VCU, our department supports its own high-performance computing cluster.

All candidates should have demonstrated experience working in and fostering a diverse faculty, staff, and student environment or commitment to do so as a faculty member at VCU. Potential candidates can submit applications, including a statement of research, teaching philosophy, curriculum vitae and contact information for three professional references, via mail - to Mrs. Yvonne Hargrove, Department of Biostatistics, Virginia Commonwealth University, P.O. Box 980032, Richmond, VA 23298-0032 - or by e-mail to yfhargro@vcu.edu.
NORC conducts high quality social science research in the public interest from its headquarters at the University of Chicago and from its offices in Chicago, IL, Washington, DC, Bethesda, MD, and Berkeley, CA. We conduct research in economics, demographics, education and child development, health, substance abuse, mental health, justice, and survey quality both in the U.S. and internationally. We offer full-service survey design and operations as well as strengths in analysis, information technology, and technical assistance. NORC supports the research needs of government in the U.S. and abroad, international donor agencies, foundations, academic researchers, and private organizations.

NORC is actively seeking statisticians, survey methodologists, statistical programmers, data managers, survey directors, and social scientists with advanced training or experience in survey research or survey operations. New staff will be based in our Chicago, IL, or Washington, DC offices. To learn more about NORC and to apply for employment, visit our website at:

http://www.norc.org/careers

NORC is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer that values and actively seeks diversity in the workforce.
and longitudinal data, and apply the new methods to real data examples. Applicants should have PhD or equivalent degree in biostatistics or statistics. Please apply online at https://erecruit.fhcrc.org/Erecruit.htm, and refer to position number SC-23731. The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance are equal opportunity employers, committed to workforce diversity.

International

The Memorial University of Newfoundland department of mathematics and statistics invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in statistics. Visit www.mun.ca/math/employment for details. Memorial University is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from qualified women and men, visible minorities, aboriginal people, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority.

University of Connecticut Health Center

Assistant Director of the Biostatistics Center

The Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) at the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC) invites nominations and applications for a full-time position as Assistant Director of the Biostatistics Center.

The Assistant Director will be a full-time faculty member at the School of Medicine in Farmington, CT with the potential for an appointment in the Department of Statistics at the UCONN Storrs Campus. The Assistant Director will assist the Director to develop the CICATS Biostatistics Center that will facilitate and support the proposed growth of Clinical and Translational Science across CICATS, which includes the university’s Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, the Storrs campus, and local area hospitals. In addition to original research and research collaborations, the Assistant Director will be responsible for assisting with the operations of the CICATS Research Design, Epidemiology and Biostatistics cores. CICATS investigators will include trainees and both junior and senior faculty members from multiple disciplines. The Biostatistics faculty, in collaboration with a team of epidemiologists and master’s level staff, will provide guidance to transdisciplinary teams for the development of clinical and translational research studies. He/she will also be responsible for biostatistics teaching in the new Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research, with teaching opportunities available in other university health-related degree programs.

The successful candidate must hold a doctorate in biostatistics or a closely related discipline and have demonstrated success with self-initiated research, extramural funding and published scholarship and have the ability to work in collaboration with clinical, translational and/or basic scientists, and to lead a biostatistics academic unit including students, postdoctoral fellows, master-level staff, and other faculty.

Applicants should apply using the Health Center’s applicant tracking system at https://jobs.uchc.edu. Search No. 2010-1076. A curriculum vitae and a cover letter should be uploaded through this site. Questions regarding this search should be addressed to James Grady DrPH, Director, CICATS Biostatistics Center, at jgrady@uchc.edu.

UCHC is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/PwD
The Division of Mathematical Sciences http://www.spms.ntu.edu.sg/mas of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, is looking to add to its tenure-track faculty at all ranks. We encourage strong candidates in the areas of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, preferably with applications to Business or Financial Analytics, to apply.

NTU is a research university, with low teaching loads, excellent facilities, ample research funding and support for conference travel. The Division of Mathematical Sciences consists of active and talented faculty members working in a variety of areas. Its student body includes some of the best in the region. It offers undergraduate programs in mathematical sciences and mathematics & economics, and a graduate program awarding Masters and PhD degrees. Salary and benefits are competitive with the top universities around the world.

We seek people with excellent achievements in both research and teaching. Interested candidates are requested to send the following material to MASrecruit@ntu.edu.sg

- Application Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Research Statement
- Teaching Statement
- Names of at least three referees

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