



C·A·U·C·U·S
FOR WOMEN
IN STATISTICS

Newsletter

Volume 41, No 2: Spring, 2011

<http://www.caucusforwomeninstatistics.com/>

Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Colleagues,



I hope this message finds you well and happy. We are in the thick of preparing for Caucus activities at the JSM in Miami Beach. This year's program committee is comprised of our four representatives at large - **Susmita Datta**, **Sorina Eftim**, **Amanda McCracken**, and **Tessa Merna** - and myself. Here is an update.

Donna Brogan, the Caucus' inaugural president, has brought to our attention that this year is the 40th Anniversary of the Caucus. I don't know about you, but I'm always looking for reasons to celebrate, and this is surely a good one! We are actively looking for opportunities to celebrate our anniversary at the JSM.

Hospitality!

We will be having a hospitality table again this year. The plan is to have a Caucus representative at the table during selected hours, to be announced. If you could donate an hour of your time to host the hospitality table, it would be much appreciated. Please contact our hospitality table coordinators, **Susmita Datta** at susmita.datta@louisville.edu or **Amanda McCracken** at mcml016@crimson.ua.edu.

Marcia Ciol and I have designed a ribbon as a memento for the 40th anniversary. ASA President **Nancy Geller** has obtained permission for us to wear these ribbons on our JSM badges. There will be a ribbon for you at the hospitality table, so please remember to stop and pick it up!

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Future newsletter submission deadlines are

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Fall 2011 | Sept 6, 2011 |
| Winter 2012 | Dec 12, 2011 |

Advertising Policy

The Caucus welcomes two types of advertisements for the newsletter:

- 1) General commercial ads, for which the charges are \$100, full page; \$55, half page; \$30, quarter page, for which Malini Iyengar should be contacted, and
- 2) Job ads, for which Jennifer Parker should be contacted. See Job Notices for deadlines and charges. These ads (and only these) will be posted on our website,

<http://www.caucusforwomeninstatistics.com/>

The Caucus for Women in Statistics 40th Anniversary

I have also been collecting pictures of past Caucus presidents to display at the hospitality table. I have located pictures of 24 of our past presidents. I have pictures of **Donna Brogan, Joan Rosenblatt, Janet Norwood, Shirley Kallek, Eileen Boardman, Jane Gentleman, Nancy Gordon, Arlene Ash, Jessica Utts, Cynthia Clark, Cynthia Struthers, Barbara Tilley, Juliet Shaffer, Mary Batcher, Sandra Stinnett, Mari Palta, Martha Allaga, Mariza de Andrade, Julia Bienias, Mary Gray, Tena Katsaounis, Marcia Ciol, and Jennifer Parker.**

I am still looking for pictures of past presidents **Marie Wann, Barbara Bailar, Irene Montie, Beatrice Vaccara, Lee-Ann Hayek, Sandra McKenzie, Sue Leurgans, Stephanie Shipp, Pamela Doctor, Elizabeth Margosches, Holly Shulman, Janet Williams, and Nancy Allen.** Also, we welcome your ideas of what else we can put at the hospitality table to make it more engaging.

Breakfast!

The plan is to have our Caucus breakfast on Monday morning again this year. We have asked to schedule the breakfast at 7 am, rather than the usual 6:30 am, in order to be a bit more inviting to the later sleepers among us. If we start at 7, we will still be able to get to a first session. We look forward again this year to the opportunity the breakfast gives us to share, discuss, and catch up with each other, and to make new friends.

This year the Caucus executive committee would also like to use the breakfast to learn about what is important to you. We will devote some time at the roundtables to this end. We plan to have a short list of guiding questions that the table leaders will use to focus these discussions. Your thoughts will be fed back into the Caucus so that we can plan activities that are meaningful and relevant. I hope you will come to the breakfast – we need your input to help set a Caucus agenda for the future that will be meaningful to you.

Susmita Datta of the University of Louisville will lead one of the breakfast roundtables. **Renee Ferguson** of the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs will also lead a roundtable. We are in the process of recruiting someone from industry to lead a third roundtable.

Cake! Cake! Cake!

This year we plan to add a 40th anniversary celebration to our social and business meeting. We are planning this year to have it again on Tuesday evening (August 2) from 5-6:30 pm. We plan to have the usual hors d'oeuvre and beverages. But this year we also plan to have an anniversary cake! Please come and join us for the celebration!

And More!

Our president-elect **Lynn Palmer** will be giving the talk at the first-time attendee orientation and reception. Lynn will bring to her talk her many years of experience with ASA activities, and her new status as an ASA Fellow (BIG Congratulations, Lynn!). Lynn's talk - titled *JSM: What are we doing here?* - will guide the attendees to get the most out of their first experience at a JSM. **Tessa Merna** will be hosting a membership drive table outside of the orientation and reception, so that interested individuals may obtain information about the Caucus.

This year we are again planning to have an executive committee meeting on Sunday morning (July 31) at 9 am. All Caucus members are welcome to submit items for the executive committee agenda. Elected or appointed members of the 2012 executive committee are again not just welcome, but encouraged, to attend this meeting.

On another matter, I mentioned in our last newsletter that I would keep you informed as we progress on the concept of a conference on Women in Statistics. Our president-elect **Lynn Palmer**, our past president **Jennifer Parker**, and

the chair of the ASA committee on women in statistics **Dalene Stangl** and I are continuing our planning for the conference.

At this point we are hoping to organize a conference for 2013. Our thinking is that the conference will support the following four objectives: (1) to promote the status of women in statistics; (2) to support the integration of women into the statistics profession; (3) to provide professional development; and (4) to build supportive networks and learning communities for women in statistics.

We are starting to look for sources of funding for the conference. If you can provide any leads to us on potential sources, it would be much appreciated.

Rosa Parks, Gloria Steinem, and the Many!

Have you read the book by **Gail Collins**, *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*? I was surprised at how much I didn't know. I recommended this book to my students in the leadership class I teach here at my university, and they told me they couldn't put it down. I recommend this book to you as we embrace the 40th anniversary of the Caucus for Women in Statistics!

Warm Regards,
Amanda Golbeck



As this newsletter was 'going to press', we learned that our ASA Strategic Initiative Proposal for a workshop to plan the 'Women in Statistics' conference has been funded! The funding will be used to bring together leaders and emerging leaders in statistics to participate in a two-day workshop. Workshop participants will plan the conference, to be held in 2013, that brings together statisticians from academics, government, and industry to celebrate the contributions of women in statistics and promote the status of women in the field through increased visibility and enhanced professional skills.

Comments by Donna Brogan

Occasioned by 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Caucus for Women in Statistics

The year 2011 is the 40th anniversary of the official founding of the Caucus for Women in Statistics, an organization affiliated with the American Statistical Association. Congratulations to all current and past Caucus members and officers who have nurtured and maintained this important organization for four decades.

For those of you who may not know or remember how the Caucus was formed, here is a brief history. At the ASA annual meeting in August of 1969 in New York City about ten women held three informal meetings to discuss the need and mission for a Women's Caucus for statisticians. Discussion continued at the next annual meeting, held jointly with the American Economic Association in December of 1970 in Detroit, and was attended by about 40 to 50 persons from both professional groups. The impetus for these discussions primarily came from two sources: the second wave of feminism sweeping the country and discrimination against women that impacted female statisticians. Areas of discrimination included education, employment, salary, and career advancement and recognition.



In 1971 the Caucus for Women in Statistics was officially organized, recognized by the ASA, and permitted to organize a paper session for annual meetings. In the same year the Caucus was instrumental in getting the ASA to establish the ASA Committee on Women in Statistics, which is still in existence. I was a member of the core group in 1969 and 1970 that organized the Caucus, was honored to serve as its first president until 1973, and was a member for several years of the ASA Committee on Women in Statistics.

During the forty years since the Caucus was formed I am pleased to observe that discrimination against women in general, and against women in statistics in particular, has been addressed in several areas by law and by societal and professional changes in attitudes and behaviors. I probably anticipated back in 1971 that the Caucus eventually would cease to exist because its mission and objectives would be fully accomplished. Today I have a more realistic viewpoint, which is that aspects of discrimination against women are rooted very deeply in our society, and thus in our (or any) profession. While recognizing and celebrating the progress in the status of women in society, and in statistics, that has occurred during the past forty years, the Caucus must continue its work to maintain this progress and to address the several issues not yet resolved.

On this 40th anniversary I am remembering the women and men with whom I have worked closely on Caucus related activities. Some have passed away, several are retired, others are still in the statistical work force, and a few are still involved in the Caucus. I am very grateful to all of you, not only for your contributions to women in statistics, but also for enriching my professional life.

Donna Brogan

dbrogan@emory.edu

March 14, 2011

Activities of the Committee on Women in Statistics of the International Statistical Institute By Cynthia Clark

The last Caucus Newsletter provided some information on the Committee on Women in Statistics (CWS) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). The Committee was formed to



- Promote and strengthen the representation of women statisticians in the ISI and its Sections by nominating women to become members (see <http://isi-web.org/membership/how-to-apply-for-isi-elected-membership>)
- Help in providing opportunities for women members to assume active and visible roles in the ISI and other statistical associations.
- Collect information on women in the statistical professions in different countries and to facilitate the flow of information among women statisticians.
- Stimulate interest in Statistics among women and encourage women in schools and colleges to study Statistics.
- Support the compilation of statistics on women, with a view to generating relevant studies concerning women's roles in the various activities in their countries

The committee has an active program that engages women in technical and social settings at the bi-annual ISI meetings and between those meetings through sponsoring a website at <http://www.nass.usda/cws> that facilitates connecting women within and across countries. The committee members represent different regions of the world. They are supported through a network of country representatives.

The next ISI meeting will in Dublin, Ireland, August 21st to August 26th. The Committee on Women in Statistics is currently planning three events at these meetings – an invited session, a topic-contributed session, and a networking reception for women in attendance at the meetings. Details of each of these events are given below.

Denise Silva, committee representative for South America, has organized a session on Women's role in Fighting Poverty and the Informal Economy. The session objective is to present surveys and innovative statistical analysis that investigate the link between gender, poverty and women's participation in the informal economy. This link is well-known between researchers, policy makers and the general public. Across the world, women are likely to be employed (or self-employed) in the informal sector, either as a strategy for fighting poverty or due to the need to accommodate family/motherhood duties with part time jobs. In this session we bring together the experience of users and producers of statistical data related to this subject in order to: 1) highlight its relevance and the continuing need for data on this subject; 2) Discuss/identify difficulties in producing this type of data; and 3) Present innovative surveys or statistical analysis on this topic. Three papers relevant to the areas of poverty, gender issues, labour market and the informal economy will be presented. The paper presenters come from different continents and discuss related issues in different environments. Denise, a member of the Committee on Women in Statistics, is the session organizer. The participants are **Luay Shabaneh** (United Nations Population Fund) whose paper is titled "Challenges in measuring women's involvement in informal economy"; **Ralf Hussmanns** (International Labour Organization) with a paper titled "Gender differences in employment in the informal economy", **Yandiswa Mpetsheni** (Statistics South Africa) whose paper is titled "The role of the informal economy in helping women fight poverty". The discussant for the session is **Elisa Caillaux** (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics-IBGE).

Ola Awad, the country representative for Palestine, has organized the special topic session entitled "Women in the Labor Market of the Arab Region: Facts and Challenges." This session sheds light on women's rights in the labor market of Arab countries including the Mediterranean, Gulf, and Al Maghrib countries, and brings to the attention of the international community the assistance desired to empower the participation of women in the labour market development process. Speakers in the session are Ms. **Najwa Yaacou** (Head, National Accounts, Lebanon Central Administration of Statistics), Ms. **Manal Swaidan** (Head, Gender Statistics, Jordan Department of Statistics), Ms. **Bushra Buziani** (Head, Social Indicators,

Statistics Morocco), **Ola Awad** (President of Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics), and Ms. **Sawson Al-Luwateyya** (Supervisor, Technical Office of National Committee of Population, Oman).

We have been given the opportunity by President **Jef Teugels** to host a reception for women attendees at the meetings one of the evenings directly following the scientific sessions for the day. We will be inviting all ISI attendees but advertising it as a women's networking reception. We are planning ice breakers to immediately engage attendees in meeting other women. The informal networking and ice breakers will be followed by roundtable discussions. We are currently soliciting topics for the roundtables and volunteers to lead the roundtables. If you are interested in taking a leadership role in this event please contact **Cynthia Clark** at czfclark@cox.net. We are not planning either entertainment or speakers as they would detract from the main objectives of facilitating networking and mentoring among women statisticians.

We hope that members of the Caucus for Women in Statistics will join us at these ISI events. If you have questions or want to assist in any way you may contact **Cynthia Clark** at the e-mail above or **Amanda Golbeck** at amanda.golbeck@umontana.edu.

Elections for 2012 Executive Committee

CWIS Nominating Committee

Jennifer Parker, jdarker@aol.com; **Lynn Palmer**, lpalmer@mdanderson.org; **Marcia Ciol**, marciac@u.washington.edu

The nominating committee for the Caucus for Women in Statistics is soliciting nominations for Executive Committee member for 2012. Open positions are President-Elect, Secretary, and two Representatives-at Large. Everyone's help in identifying candidates for these positions is crucial to the continuing success of the CWIS.

The **President-Elect** serves as Vice-President of the Caucus, and is next in succession to the President. As President the following year, she assumes responsibility for the Caucus and its activities, including organizing activities at the annual Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) and representing the CWIS to the ASA and other organizations. The **Secretary** serves a two-year term; her duties include preparing written minutes of all Executive Committee and general membership meetings. **Representatives-at-Large** assist the President with Caucus activities, including the organization of events at the annual JSM meeting; this position is a wonderful way to meet new colleagues and gain new skills, without a large time commitment. Please feel free to contact any current or former Executive Committee member with questions about these positions.

We plan to hold the election from May 15 to June 15. By holding the elections in late spring, the newly elected officers will have an opportunity to meet the current Executive Committee during this year's JSM activities in August.

If you would like to run for one of these positions, please let one of us know (contact information above). If you have a colleague, or simply know of someone, who you think would be a good fit for one of our positions, please ask her directly or forward us her name and one of us will contact her.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
THE TENTH ANNUAL JANET L. NORWOOD AWARD

For Outstanding Achievement By A Woman In The Statistical Sciences

The Section on Statistical Genetics and the Department of Biostatistics in the School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) are pleased to request nominations for the Tenth Annual Janet L. Norwood Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Woman in the Statistical Sciences. The award will be conferred on Wed 9/14/2011. The award recipient will be invited to deliver a lecture at the UAB award ceremony, and will receive all expenses, the award, and a \$5,000 prize.

Eligible individuals are women who have completed their terminal degree, have made extraordinary contributions and have an outstanding record of service to the statistical sciences, with an emphasis on both their own scholarship and on teaching and leadership of the field in general and of women in particular and who, if selected, are willing to deliver a lecture at the award ceremony. For additional details about the award, please visit our website at <http://www.soph.uab.edu/ssg/norwoodaward/aboutaward>.

How to nominate: Please send a full curriculum vitae accompanied by a letter of not more than two pages in length describing the nature of the candidate's contributions. Contributions may be in the area of development and evaluation of statistical methods, teaching of statistics, application of statistics, or any other activity that can arguably be said to have advanced the field of statistical science. Self-nominations are acceptable.

Please send nominations to:

David B. Allison, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor & Head, Section on Statistical Genetics
dallison@uab.edu

Deadline for receipt of nominations is Fri 6/24/2011. Electronic submissions of nominations are encouraged. The winner will be announced by Fri 7/1/2011.

Previous Recipients

- (2002) Dr. **Jane F. Gentleman**: Dir, Div Health Interview Statistics, NCHS & VP ASA
- (2003) Dr. **Nan M. Laird**: Henry Pickering Walcott Prof, Biostatistics, Harvard
- (2004) Dr. **Alice S. Whittemore**: Prof & Co-Chair, Health Research & Policy, Stanford
- (2005) Dr. **Clarice R. Weinberg**: NIEHS Biostatistics Branch Chief
- (2006) Dr. **Janet Turk Wittes**: Pres, Statistics Collaborative Inc.
- (2007) Dr. **Marie Davidian**: Distinguished Prof, Statistics at NC State
- (2008) Dr. **Xihong Lin**: Prof, Biostatistics, Harvard
- (2009) Dr. **Nancy Geller**: Dir, NHLBI Office of Biostatistics Research.
- (2010) Dr. **L. Adrienne Cupples**: Prof, Biostatistics & Epidemiology, Boston University

New CWIS Webmaster

Jenna Green has graciously volunteered to assume Webmaster tasks for the Caucus for Women in Statistics. Jenna is currently a Statistics graduate student at Columbia University. She is interested in crunching numbers for biostatistics or governmental analyses. If you have suggestions or items to post on the webpage, Jenna can be reached at: jennarrgreen@gmail.com. Thank you Jenna!!

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

Caucus Members: Have you recently published an article or book? Received a promotion? Taken a new job? If so, we would like to share your good news with the Caucus membership. Please send a short email message with your news to: **Jill Montaquila** (Caucus Newsbriefs Features Editor), montaj1@westat.com

Status of Caucus Membership by *Cathy Furlong*

The Caucus is always looking for new members – please remind your colleagues about the Caucus! It is important for women to continue to share their experiences with each other and for all of us to encourage women to develop their skills and careers in statistics and mathematics.

Do you have ideas of how to increase the Caucus membership? If so, please email all suggestions to me. I would like to thank people for some suggestions given so far:

1. Create Caucus for Women in Statistics subsets at universities or colleges. For members at the university or college level, are you interested in doing this?
2. Encourage younger members to conduct informational interviews of experienced members, especially when dealing with balancing work and family or finding mentors at work. I am willing to pair members for the interviews.

Experienced members, please let me know if you are open to being interviewed by younger members.
New members, please let me know if you are interested in conducting an informational interview.



At the present time, we have ninety-nine registered members, some of whom have not yet renewed their membership for 2011. Please remember to renew your membership! **Anna Nevuis**, Treasurer, has successfully organized the PayPal account; therefore members are encouraged to pay their dues on-line. When renewing on line, please include your email address and any additional notes. I will email new members for additional database information.

Membership Coordinator
cathy.furlong@cox.net

Electronic Distribution of Newsletter
by Tena Katsaounis on behalf of the Executive Committee

Due to cost and time considerations the Caucus Executive Committee is considering electronic-only distribution of the Caucus Newsletter, via e-mail.



Request for Newsletter Contributions
by Malini Iyengar

We need your input to keep the newsletter informative and interesting to readers and also to build a loyal fan base. We are a diverse community with members in academia, pharmaceutical industry, financial services, software development and various governmental organizations. Each of these has its own system / programs to recognize outstanding performances in the field of statistics. Quite often many such opportunities are not well advertized centrally. If you happen to come across announcements for competitions, scholarships etc., can you please send me a write-up for the newsletter? This way we can inform members of opportunities to benefit from, and continue to serve them.

Job Notices

Job notices must be submitted by March 30, 2010 for inclusion in the Spring 2010 Newsletter. The fee for publishing a job notice of ≤ 12 lines is \$50, a $\frac{1}{2}$ page is \$100. Longer ads are \$125 per page. Jobs will be posted on the Web site periodically as received and published in the next edition. Credit card payments can be made on the Caucus website, or a check payable to The Caucus for Women in Statistics will be accepted. Phone or e-mail inquiries are welcomed. All positions advertised in this newsletter are EO/AA.

Below are job advertisements posted on our webpage since the Fall 2010 newsletter - Jennifer Parker, Acting Jobs Editor. If you can assist the Caucus as Jobs Editor, please contact Amanda Golbeck.

The Center for Veterinary Medicine within the US Food and Drug Administration

The Center for Veterinary Medicine within the US Food and Drug Administration is seeking a Mathematical Statistician (Biomedical) to fill a vacancy within the Office of New Animal Drug Evaluation's Division of Scientific Support. The incumbent will join a group of statisticians who provide statistical review and research support in the fields of animal health and food safety. He/she will review and evaluate statistical methods and procedures from safety and effectiveness protocols and studies contained in new animal drug applications.

Experience Requirements: Candidates must have a combination of education and experience - at least 24 semester hours of mathematics and statistics, including at least 12 hours in mathematics and 6 hours in statistics, plus appropriate experience or additional education. Candidates with a Doctorate or Master's degree in statistics and associated experience are highly desirable.

Specialized Skills, Knowledge, Abilities: Evidence of professional statistical work such as (a) organizing and analyzing data by applying known statistical techniques; (b) participating in study protocol development including study design and statistical methods sections; (c) adapting or extending known statistical techniques including principles of probability theory, inference, experimental design, or development of new procedures; (d) demonstrating ability to communicate in writing and orally with agency and sponsor personnel; (e) demonstrating skill in the use of statistical packages such as SAS or R

Salary: Salary and level of responsibility are commensurate with education and experience. Starting salary would fall within the GS-11 to GS-13 range (\$62,467 - \$115,742).

Fringe Benefits: FDA provides an excellent benefits package and flexible work schedule. FDA is an equal opportunity employer and is a smoke free environment. FDA provides reasonable accommodations.

To Apply: Email your CV and copy of your transcripts to Anna Nevius at anna.nevius@fda.hhs.gov

CAUCUS FOR WOMEN IN STATISTICS
2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM

This form may be used for new members or renewal of membership for 9/1/2010 – 8/31/2011.

Name: _____
 Work Phone: _____
 Home Phone: _____
 Fax: _____
 Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Would you like to be included in the Caucus email distribution list? Yes No

Would you like to receive your Caucus Newsletter via email or on paper? email paper

Note: There is an additional \$5 charge in the dues if you wish to receive the newsletter by mail (regular or sustaining memberships).

Highest Degree: _____ Year Received _____

Field/Major: _____

Thesis Topic/Current Interest: _____

Advisor: _____

Institution: _____

Current Employer: _____

Job Title: _____

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS IN AFFILIATED SOCIETIES (Please check all that apply):

- American Statistical Association
- Biometric Society - Eastern North American Region
- Biometric Society - Western North American Region
- Biometric Society- Other Region or At Large
- Institute of Mathematical Statistics
- Statistical Society of Canada
- Population Association of America

I would like to volunteer to (please, check):

- At the JSM/other conferences
- Sit at information table
- Lead Round Table discussion
- Help with Cox Scholarship Race
- General/Other

- Newsletter
- Write article
 - Edit regular column
 - General/Other

- Other
- Serve on Awards/Fellows Nomination Committee
 - Serve on other short-term ad hoc committee
 - Assist with fundraising
 - Serve as Officer
 - Host local event/meeting

Dues may be paid in U.S. or Canadian dollars. The rate schedule is:

| Membership Category | Dollars | |
|--|---------|----------|
| | U. S. | Canadian |
| Regular Individual | \$25.00 | \$30.00 |
| Regular Couple | \$30.00 | \$35.00 |
| Sustaining Individual | \$40.00 | \$47.00 |
| Sustaining Couple | \$50.00 | \$60.00 |
| Associate (student, retired, unemployed) | \$5.00 | \$6.00 |
| Canadian Section (add) | \$1.75 | \$2.00 |
| Add fee to receive newsletter via postal mail (regular or sustaining memberships only) | \$5.00 | \$5.00 |

Membership Fee \$ _____

- Check below
- Regular Individual
 - Regular Couple
 - Sustaining Individual
 - Sustaining Couple
 - Associate (circle: Student Retired Unemployed)
 - Canadian Section Member \$ _____

Contributions to:

- Caucus General Fund \$ _____
- Cox Scholarship Fund \$ _____
- FN David Award Fund \$ _____

TOTAL (Dues and contributions) \$ _____

The Caucus is a 501 (c)(3) organization 93-0747853. All contributions are tax deductible in the US.

Complete the form on this page, write a check for the TOTAL amount to the Caucus for Women in Statistics and mail to:
 Anna Nevius, Treasurer
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