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## **ASA Presents 2007 Founders Awards at Joint Statistical Meetings**

**SALT LAKE CITY, UT (PRWEB) August 1, 2007** – The American Statistical Association (ASA), the nation's preeminent professional statistical society, last night presented its 2007 Founders Awards to ASA members who have rendered distinguished service to the association. The awards, which are the highest level given by ASA, were presented at the Presidential Awards Session at ASA's 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings here.

Selection criteria for the Founders Award include service over an extended period of time and in a variety of leadership roles, including chapter, section, committee, officer or editorial activities, in which effective service or leadership was provided within ASA or on behalf of ASA to other organizations. Typically, no more than two awards are granted each year, but, when warranted, up to five awards may be granted in a given year. Three awards were presented this year.

The 2007 winners are:

**George W. Cobb**, Mount Holyoke College, for extraordinary contributions to advances in statistical education, for exemplary and altruistic service to the profession, including serving as an ASA Vice President; for vision, creativity, and eloquence in advancing undergraduate statistics education; for effective outreach to the mathematics community; for promoting the role of statistics in the liberal arts; and for mentoring future and current statisticians.

**Katherine Wallman**, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, for overseeing and coordinating Federal statistical policies, standards, and programs; for developing and advancing long-term improvements in Federal statistical activities, especially legislation to protect the confidentiality of Federal statistics; for representing the Federal Government in international organizations; for increasing cooperation between the several levels of government in the production of Federal statistics, strengthening the interface between academic and government statisticians, and enhancing the statistical literacy of the public; and for effective leadership as an ASA President and her tireless participation in Committee, Chapter, Section and Board of Directors activities.

**Gary McDonald**, General Motors (retired) and Oakland University, for distinguished leadership in industry, education and NISS; for research in regression, reliability and safety; for dedicated service in ASA chapters, sections and Board of Directors; and for exceptional impact in work with sister professional organizations, especially his work as Board of Directors Chair of MathCounts, a national math enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement in every U.S. state and territory.

### **About the American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest professional society in the United States. For more than 160 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a

wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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