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Media Advisory -- July 29, 2010

**Statisticians Descend on Vancouver for Joint Statistical Meetings;
Many Available for Interviews on Various Topics**

Statisticians from around the world will share research and views on topics from census to climate to sports, from Canadian Crop Yields to Haitian earthquake recovery

Statisticians from the U.S., Canada, and around the world are arriving in Vancouver beginning today to attend the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), the world's largest annual gathering of statisticians. The conference, which begins Saturday at the Vancouver Convention Centre, will bring approximately 5,600 statisticians to the city. They will be participating in the more than 2,500 oral presentations, panel sessions, roundtables, poster presentations, continuing education courses, career placement activities, business meetings, social activities and networking opportunities from July 31—August 5.

The theme for the 2010 JSM is "*Statistics: The Key to Innovation in a Data-Centric World.*" ASA President Sastry Pantula will deliver an address by that title on Tuesday afternoon. Complete information about the conference is available at the JSM web site at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/>.

***** Media Registration**

Members of the media are invited to participate in any or all of the sessions at JSM. Media registration is required; call Rosanne Desmone at 703.946.3820 or use the form at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/index.cfm?fuseaction=pressregistrationform>. Press credentials can be picked up, and also may be requested, at the Special Assistance Desk in the registration area of the conference.

Some of the individuals available for interviews:

- James J. Cochran and Jean Orelie: [Statistics Without Borders](#) in Haiti
- Jon Hobbs and David Banks: [Statistics in the Community](#)
- Hal R. Varian, **Google**: [Predicting the Present with Google Trends](#)
- Dr. Rick Routledge, **Simon Fraser University**: [BC Forest Resource](#)
- Dr. Charmaine Dean, Simon Fraser University: [Climate Change-Caused Shifts in Forest Fire Ignitions](#)
- Jim Goodnight, **SAS**: [President's Invited Address/Keynote](#)
- To be determined: [How Government Statistics Make a Difference](#)
- Robert Ball and Chris Volinsky: [The Netflix Prize](#)
- Peter Guttorp, University of Washington: [Climate Models](#)
- Edward J. Wegman, George Mason University: [Global Warming](#)
- Michael Link, Nielsen Co.; John Thompson, NORC: [Confidentiality and Useful Data](#)

The following individuals are knowledgeable about and available to discuss the issues regarding the Canadian Census:

- Don McLeish, President, Statistical Society of Canada (SSC)
- David Binder, SSC executive director
- Ivan Fellegi, former chief statistician, Statistics Canada (available by phone only)
- James Zidek, statistics professor, Simon Fraser University
- Mary Thompson, University of Waterloo

- John Thompson, formerly with the U.S. Census Bureau, now with NORC
- Fritz Scheuren, VP/Statistics, NORC

*****Attendees**

The JSM participants represent academia, business & industry, and federal, state, provincial, and local governments. While the majority of participants are from the US, Canadians also are well represented, since the Statistical Society of Canada is one of the groups that participates annually in JSM. International participants represent the continents of Australia, Europe, Africa, Asia and South America. More than 10% of attendees are from Canada, including British Columbia, from Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, and University of Northern British Columbia. The attendees are approximately 60 percent male, and 40 percent female.

*****College Stat Bowl – Tuesday, August 5, 8:30 to 12:30 am**

College Stat Bowl is a tournament, which begins with 16 players. There will be four first round games, from 8:30 to 10:30, each game consisting of four players from universities. Round two, which will determine the winner, will begin at 10:30.

http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2010/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=activity_details&sessionid=205495

About the Joint Statistical Meetings

JSM, which has been held annually since 1974, is conducted jointly with the American Statistical Association (ASA), the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC), the International Chinese Statistical Association, and the International Indian Statistical Association. JSM activities include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, continuing education courses, exhibit hall (with state-of-the-art statistical products and opportunities), career placement service, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities, and networking opportunities.

About the American Statistical Association

Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, the American Statistical Association is the world's largest community of statisticians and the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For 170 years, the ASA has supported excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, accreditation, and advocacy. Its members serve in industry, government, and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the ASA web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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