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Ronald Wasserstein Named Executive Director of the American Statistical Association

ALEXANDRIA, VA, JANUARY 9, 2007 - The American Statistical Association (ASA), the nation's preeminent professional statistical society, announced today that Ronald L. Wasserstein, vice president of academic affairs at Washburn University, has accepted the position of ASA executive director. Wasserstein will join the ASA staff as the 24th secretary and executive director of the association in August of this year, succeeding the current executive director, William B. Smith, who retires effective August 15, 2007.

"My involvement in ASA activities has helped me develop as a professional and as a person," Wasserstein said, "and I am looking forward to my new role with ASA as a tremendous opportunity to serve the profession and my professional colleagues. I have a 20-year history of active involvement with the association in various chapter and national committee roles, and, as is always the case when one commits to service, I have gained much more than I have given."

"As a well respected member of our community, Ron is an excellent choice for this position," said Sallie Keller-McNulty, ASA past president. "In addition to his extensive experience with the association, he will bring a rich set of leadership and management experiences to the ASA."

A former president of the Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter of ASA, Wasserstein also served on the ASA Board of Directors and, in 2003, was named an ASA Fellow. Wasserstein joined the Washburn faculty in 1984 and was appointed to his current position in 2001. He was tenured in 1990 and promoted to professor of statistics in 1996. Wasserstein received a Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in statistics from Kansas State University in 1967 and a BA in mathematics from Washburn University.

Wasserstein's selection followed several months of activity by a search committee of ASA members chaired by Robert N. Rodriguez, an ASA Board vice president. Wasserstein was offered the executive director position after a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

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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