

## And the Award Goes to ... American Statistical Association Presents 2016 Awards at Joint Statistical Meetings

ALEXANDRIA, VA (July 31, 2016) – The American Statistical Association (ASA), the nation’s preeminent professional statistical society, presented its annual awards program last evening at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM 2016) in Chicago.

A list of honorees and their respective awards follow:

### Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Award

The Wilks award honors the memory and distinguished career of Samuel S. Wilks by recognizing outstanding contributions to statistics that carry on in the spirit of his work. The 2016 Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Award honoree is **David Donoho** of Stanford University. Donoho is recognized for his contributions to statistics, mathematics, signal processing, information theory and reproducible research, including his innovations in statistical theory, multiscale analysis and compressed sensing, which have had wide influence across science and engineering. The Wilks Award is made possible in part by a donation from Alexander Mood, who was a student of Wilks.

### Gottfried E. Noether Awards

The Noether awards were established to recognize distinguished researchers and teachers and to support the field of nonparametric statistics.

- The Noether Senior Scholar Award is presented to a distinguished senior researcher or teacher in nonparametric statistics. The 2016 Noether Senior Scholar Award honoree is **Jane-Ling Wang** of the University of California, Davis, who was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the theory, applications and teaching of nonparametric statistics.
- The Noether Young Scholar Award is presented to an accomplished young researcher to promote research and teaching in nonparametric statistics. The 2016 Noether Young Scholar Award honoree is **Jing Lei** of Carnegie Mellon University, who was recognized for his outstanding early-career contributions to nonparametric statistics.

### Outstanding Statistical Application Award

Each year, the ASA recognizes the author(s) of a paper that is an outstanding application of statistics in the physical, biological or medical sciences with this award. The 2016 Outstanding Statistical Application Award honorees are **Edoardo M. Airoldi** and **Jonathan M. Bischof** of Harvard University. They were recognized for their novel development of a scalable topic-modeling framework to summarize a massive corpus of D documents in terms of K latent topics

(mixture components) using, as one example, *The New York Times* corpus of more than 1.8 million documents with more than 2 billion word counts. Their paper, titled “A Regularization Scheme on Word Occurrence Rates That Improves Estimation and Interpretation of Topical Content,” was published in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* in 2015.

### **W.J. Dixon Award for Excellence in Statistical Consulting**

Established through a gift from the family of Wilfrid J. Dixon, this award recognizes outstanding contributions to the practice of statistical consulting. The 2016 W.J. Dixon Award for Excellence in Statistical Consulting honoree is **George A. Milliken** of Kansas State University. Milliken was recognized for exceptional contributions in the areas of linear and nonlinear models, design of experiments, mixed and multilevel models, data analysis, statistical genetics and biostatistics and for the publication of more than 200 peer-reviewed conference papers and technical reports and five widely respected and well-known books. He was also recognized for procurement of and participation in more than \$3 million of federal and commercially sponsored research and for major consulting achievements with scientific domain experts spanning more than four decades.

### **Jackie Dietz Best *Journal of Statistics Education* Paper Award**

Established in 2011, this award is given annually to the best paper in the *Journal of Statistics Education* from the previous year. It is named in honor of Jackie Dietz, the journal’s founding editor. The 2016 Jackie Dietz Best *Journal of Statistics Education* Paper Award honorees are **Ellen Gundlach, Chantal Levesque-Bristol, and David Nelson**—all of Purdue University—and **K. Andrew R. Richards** of the University of Alabama for their paper, titled “A Comparison of Student Attitudes, Statistical Reasoning, Performance, and Perceptions for Web-Augmented Traditional, Fully Online, and Flipped Sections of a Statistical Literacy Class.”

### **Waller Awards**

These honors—the Waller Distinguished Teaching Career and Waller Education awards—were established with a contribution from retired ASA Executive Director Ray Waller and his wife, Carolyn. The former recognizes an individual for sustained excellence in teaching and statistics education, and the latter honors an individual for innovation in the instruction of elementary statistics.

- The 2016 Waller Distinguished Teaching Career Award honoree is **Allan J. Rossman** of Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, who was recognized for his many years of outstanding teaching, contributions and creative efforts in statistical education.
- The 2016 Waller Education Award honoree is **Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel** of Duke University, who was recognized for her outstanding contributions to and innovations in the teaching of elementary statistics.

### **Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society**

The Karl E. Peace Award is bestowed upon a distinguished individual who has made substantial contributions to the statistical profession that has led to direct ways of improving the human condition. The award was established by Christopher K. Peace, son of Karl E. Peace, on behalf of

the Peace family to honor the life work of his father. The 2016 Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society honorees are:

- **Gary M. Shapiro** of Statistics without Borders, who was recognized for his central role in the formation of and ongoing volunteer mentoring in Statistics without Borders (SWB), an organization devoted to using statistics to further the development of human rights throughout the world. He was also recognized for his devoted pro-bono work on developing a sampling scheme of police archives for evaluating police involvement in the disappearances and killing of Guatemalans.
- **Ronald Brookmeyer** of the University of California, Los Angeles, who was recognized for his seminal methodological work in global health as it relates to disease monitoring; his work in biosurveillance as it relates to HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's disease and biosecurity; and his contributions to training a generation of researchers about the importance of statistics in public health and increasing public awareness.

### **Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship**

The ASA's Government Statistics Section and Social Statistics Section present this scholarship annually in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a founding member of the Government Statistics Section and longtime contributor to federal statistics. The scholarship is cosponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, Caucus for Women in Statistics, Harris-Smith Institutes, Mathematica Policy Research and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc. It rewards promising young statisticians for their diligence and encourages them to consider a future in government statistics. The 2016 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship honoree is **Maria Cuellar** of Carnegie Mellon University. Cuellar was recognized for exploring the utility of multiplicity sampling in estimating the size of populations that are hard to reach or experience rare events and the potential of this methodology to affect public policy formulation and implementation.

### **Statistics in Physical Engineering Sciences Award**

Established in 1990, this award recognizes outstanding collaborative endeavors between statisticians and scientists throughout the physical and engineering sciences. The award is sponsored by the Chemometrics Committee of the ASA Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences. The 2016 Statistics in Physical Engineering Sciences Award honoree is **Dennis K.J. Lin** of Penn State University, who was recognized for his joint work on "Mixture Design and Analysis of Computer Experiments for Refinery Reactor Optimization" with the Industrial Statistics Group in Sasol Group Technology.

### **Harry V. Roberts Statistical Advocate of the Year Award**

In 2002, the Chicago Chapter of the ASA established the Harry V. Roberts Statistical Advocate of the Year Award in honor of Harry V. Roberts, an exemplar of statistical advocacy. The award recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of those who have successfully advocated appropriate and effective uses of statistics and data-analytic approaches in business and the public sector. Additionally, the award recognizes the promotion of statistical reasoning by individuals who may or may not be statisticians. The 2016 Harry V. Roberts Statistical Advocate of the Year Award honoree is **Davina P. Durgana** of the School for International Training Graduate Institute. Durgana was recognized for her work in creating and promoting the Human

Vulnerability Diagnostic Tool (HVDT) and bringing the concept and practice of Big Data analytics to the fields of human rights advocacy and social justice.

### **Edward C. Bryant Scholarship**

Established by Westat to honor its co-founder and chair emeritus, this scholarship is awarded to outstanding graduate students in survey statistics to help support their graduate education. The 2016 Edward C. Bryant Scholarship recipient is **Judith N. Law** of the University of Maryland.

### **The Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research**

Monroe G. Sirken created an endowment to recognize a distinguished researcher for contributions to interdisciplinary survey research that improve the theory and methods of collecting, verifying, processing, presenting or analyzing survey data. The 2016 Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research honoree is **Eleanor Singer** of the University of Michigan. Singer was recognized for significant contributions to the understanding of survey participation, sources of nonresponse bias, and factors affecting survey responses; pioneering research on the use and effects of incentives; and leadership in developing awareness and understanding of ethical issues in survey research.

### **Mentoring Award**

The ASA Mentoring Award is given each year to a member who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to providing significant early-career support to statistics students, statisticians or statistical researchers. The award honors those recognized by their colleagues for their sustained efforts to champion the work and develop the careers of statisticians. The 2016 ASA Mentoring Award honorees are:

- **Fritz J. Scheuren** of NORC at the University of Chicago, who was recognized for his career-long superior mentoring, tireless encouragement, generosity of time and knowledge and positive influence on generations of statisticians and nonstatisticians alike; inspiration that others mentor; commitment to excellence in motivating others and leadership by example; sincere interest in people and genuine encouragement to succeed; dedication to using statistics to better society and constant display of kindness to all around him; inspiration and willingness to seek out and help those who have had fewer opportunities; and passionate encouragement to generations of statisticians from academia, government and business to be active in the ASA as part of their professional development and sense of community.
- **Douglas A. Zahn** of Florida State University, who was recognized for his 40+ years of exceptional commitment to and passion for mentoring statisticians in teaching, consulting and collaboration; engaging students to recognize the extraordinary power of statistics in their own lives; helping countless clients transform statistics from a stumbling block to a stepping stone for social good; empowering generations of statisticians to interact with nonstatisticians in consultations and collaborations; pioneering the analysis of video-recorded interactions as a way for statisticians to coach and mentor each other; transforming the way his mentees teach statistics; and developing and leading workshops on statistical collaboration at JSM to enable a new generation of statisticians to reach their potential.

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***About JSM 2016***

JSM 2016 is the largest gathering of statisticians and data scientists in the world, taking place July 30-August 4, 2016, in Chicago. Occurring annually since 1974, JSM is a joint effort of the American Statistical Association, International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Statistical Society of Canada, International Chinese Statistical Association, International Indian Statistical Association, Korean International Statistical Society, International Society for Bayesian Analysis, Royal Statistical Society, and International Statistical Institute. JSM activities include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, professional development courses, an exhibit hall, a career service, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities and networking opportunities.

***About the American Statistical Association***

The ASA is the world's largest community of statisticians and the oldest continuously operating professional science society in the United States. 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, please visit the ASA website at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org).

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