

Message from the Program Chair 2004 by Partha Lahiri

At this year's JSM we are very pleased to sponsor the following six invited paper sessions (with organizer):

- Software Development in Survey Organizations (Howard Hogan, Sunday at 4PM)
- Resampling Methods in Surveys (Jiming Jiang, Monday at 2PM)
- Disclosure Limitation Methods for Protecting the Confidentiality of Statistical Data (Jai Choi and S. Chatterjee, Tuesday at 8:30 AM)
- Multilevel Modeling with Survey Data (Michael D. Larsen and Shijie Chen, Wednesday at 8:30AM)
- The Future of Methods and Software for Analyzing Complex Samples (Barry Graubard and Lisa LaVange, Thursday at 8:30AM)
- Outliers in Finite Population Sampling (Malay Ghosh, Thursday at 10:30AM)

On Sunday at 6:00PM, John Eltinge will present the SRMS sponsored invited poster on *Graphical Display of*

Uncertainty and Related Tools for Inference. This will provide the SRMS members a unique opportunity to discuss the subject with John on a one-to-one basis.

Rachel Harter is the JSM2005 Program Chair-Elect and according to the ASA tradition she has organized the following roundtable luncheons (with discussion leader):

- IRBs, Surveys, and the Protection of Human Subjects (with Eleanor Singer, Monday)
- Projecting the 2004 Elections: What's Changed? (with Warren J. Mitofsky, Monday)
- Employment – Which Number to Pick? (with George S. Werking, Tuesday)
- Enhancing Collaboration Between Social Science Researchers and Statisticians (with David A. Binder, Tuesday)
- Integrated Survey and Administrative Data (with Julia I. Lane, Wednesday)
- Web Survey Design and Implementation (with Mick P. Couper, Wednesday)
- Respondent Retention in Longitudinal Surveys (with Rupa Datta, Wednesday)

At a roundtable luncheon the discussion leader keeps discussions alive and it is a fun way to learn about a topic of current research interest. Hope many of you will consider registering for these luncheons.

At this year's JSM, we have sponsored 21 topic contributed sessions and 22 regular contributed sessions. In addition, we have co-sponsored a large number of sessions with other sections. Please visit <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2004/OnlineProgram> in order to find out further details about the JSM2004 program.

It has been a pleasure working with Howard Hogan, last year's program chair, Rachel Harter and many of you on this year's JSM program. With your help we have developed a truly exciting program. See you all at JSM - hopefully many of you at the SRMS business meeting Wednesday evening!



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Message from the Section Chair

by Sharon Lohr

The Toronto Joint Statistical Meetings will feature many activities sponsored or co-sponsored by SRMS, including six invited paper sessions, many topic contributed and regular contributed sessions, seven roundtable luncheons, and the continuing education course "Introduction to Survey Quality" given by Lars Lyberg and Paul Biemer.

Please join us at the annual SRMS Mixer and Business Meeting in Toronto. It is held on Wednesday, August 11 from 5:30-7:00 pm; as of this writing, it is scheduled for room 705 of the Toronto Convention Center. This is a great opportunity to meet other people interested in survey research. I would especially like to encourage students to come, partake of the free food, and meet survey researchers from government, industry, and academia.

At this summer's Mixer/Business Meeting, SRMS will be giving out the inaugural Student Travel Awards. These awards cover part of the travel expenses for students to attend the JSM, and include a continuing education course co-sponsored by the section. This year, we are able to offer more student travel awards than originally planned because of generous financial support from Nielsen Media Research, who wanted to encourage students desiring to specialize in survey research methods. We would like to thank Paul Lavrakas for arranging this funding.

We are very grateful to Marketing Systems Group for sponsoring the 2004 SRMS Mixer in Toronto. Marketing Systems Group is the creator of GENESYS, a stand-alone sample design and generation system. They provide consultation on sample designs, and complete lines of RDD, listed household, business and specialty samples, data/list enhancement services, and the IDplus operator-attended number screening service. Their services also include PRO-T-S telephony systems, a dialing and interviewer management system that integrates computer and telephone hardware/software and is designed to improve interviewer productivity and accuracy. Marketing Systems Group also underwrote the 2003 SRMS Mixer in San Francisco and we appreciate their ongoing support.

Invited Sessions for JSM 2005

by Rachel Harter

Proposals are now requested for invited sessions for the Joint Statistical Meetings in Minneapolis in 2005. There will be more invited sessions than in prior years, so submissions may have a greater chance of being selected.

An invited session should have an exciting topic of interest to the Survey Research Methods section and beyond. Although the session need not conform to the overall conference theme, the theme for 2005 is "Using Our Discipline to Enhance Human Welfare."

An invited session may follow any of a variety of formats: single paper with series of discussions; series of papers followed by a discussion(s); panel discussion; tutorial; workshop; demonstration; mock trial; debate; etc. The organizer should identify all participants, including the chair, speakers, discussants, and panelists. Note that the chair may not also be a speaker/discussant/panelist for the session.

Please get in touch with me about your ideas prior to submission. Even if your idea is not fully fleshed out, I may be able to put you in touch with folks who can help. This section has many talented individuals who are very supportive with ideas and gracious about participating.

Proposals for invited sessions may be submitted online between June 18 and July 18. Too late for an invited session?

Consider turning your idea into a topic contributed session or invited poster session. Either way, please contact me with your ideas!

Rachel Harter, Program Chair-Elect for SRMS
(312) 759-4058 harter-rachel@norc.org

IMS-SRMS Joint Mini Meeting on Current Trends in Survey Sampling and Official Statistics,

Raichak, India, January 1-3, 2004

By Partha Lahiri

The joint mini meeting on *Current Trends in Survey Sampling and Official Statistics* was held on January 1-3, 2004 at the Ffort Radisson hotel on the banks of the river Hooghly near Kolkata (Calcutta), India. This was the first mini meeting sponsored jointly by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) and the SRMS and was intended to serve as a bridge between mathematical statisticians and practitioners working on sample surveys and official statistics. The mini meeting was co-sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau, Gallup Research Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Department of Statistics, University of Calcutta.

Continued on next page.

About sixty people from six different countries attended the mini meeting. The following researchers presented their papers in invited sessions:

Jana Asher, William R. Bell, F. Jay Breidt, Jai Won Choi, Stephen Fienberg, David F. Findley, Wayne A. Fuller, Malay Ghosh, J.K. Ghosh, Phillip S. Kott, Michael D. Larsen, Seppo Laaksonen, Michel Mouchart, Ralf Munnich, Rajendra P. Singh.

A special attraction of this mini meeting was a poster session held in the evening of January 2. Thirteen posters were displayed in an informal setting and refreshments were served during the session. Many students and young researchers presented their research in this session. There was no parallel session in the entire meeting which gave participants an opportunity to attend all sessions, including the poster session. The invited sessions and the poster session together covered a wide range of topics including calibration, data collection, measurement error modeling, small area estimation, statistical disclosure limitation, time series modeling, record linkage and variance estimation. The meeting papers can be found under meeting proceedings at <http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/ims>.

Delicious Indian foods and drinks were served throughout the meeting, including a typical Bengali lunch at the end of the meeting. Right after the poster session on January 2, there was a cultural program featuring an Indian classical dance. A post meeting tour of Kolkata was organized especially for the foreign visitors.

The Executive Committee – Tathagata Banerjee, Saibal Chattopadhyay (Chair), Partha Lahiri and Rahul Mukerjee – wishes to thank Gauraga Chattopadhyay, Sugata Sen Roy, organizers of different invited sessions, many students of Calcutta University who helped the organization of the meeting and the participants, especially those who came from far away places. The meeting was a grand success!

Statfest @ NC State a Huge Success

by Jacqueline M. Hughes-Oliver

Statisticians from colleges, universities, government agencies and businesses across the nation explained the benefits and advantages of careers in statistics to minority students at StatFest @ NC State, held November 22, 2003 at North Carolina State University. Students came from Albany State University, Claflin University, Clemson University, Fayetteville State University, Florida A&M University, Hampton University, Knoxville College, Livingstone College, North Carolina A&T State University, NC State University, Shaw University, Spelman College,

St. Augustine's College, Tennessee State University, and Voorhees College.

Primarily sponsored by the Committee on Minorities in Statistics (CMS) of the American Statistical Association (ASA), with generous support from other academic and business groups, the event was being held for the first time at an institution other than a historically black college or university. Several ASA Sections graciously contributed funds in response to CMS' appeal. Specifically, the Section on Statistics in Epidemiology and the Social Statistics Section have been long-time supporters of this event, and this year they were joined by the Business and Economic Statistics Section, the Survey Research Methods Section, and the Biometrics Section.

The Department of Statistics at NC State planned and hosted the event, with support from the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Bioinformatics Research Center, the Society of African-American Physical & Mathematical Scientists, and the NSF-VIGRE program. Companies were also eager to offer support. GlaxoSmithKline, Constella Group, and SAS Institute all made financial contributions, with the SAS Institute also offering t-shirts and very nice pens. Other companies, and a large number of colleges and universities, supported the event by covering transportation expenses for speakers.

The one-day conference allowed Hispanic and African-American students to meet and discuss career opportunities with business, government, and industry leaders as well as directors of graduate programs at participating universities. A very large number (145 individuals) attended StatFest.

Announcements

Short Courses at JSM:

Look for these two interesting short courses at JSM in Toronto this year:

Introduction to Survey Quality. Paul Biemer and Lars Lyberg. Sponsored by SRMS

Sample Survey Methods: Recent Developments and Applications. J.N.K. Rao and Sharon Lohr

Business Meeting

The SRMS Business Meeting will be held in Room 705 of the Toronto Convention Center on Wednesday, August 11, at 5:30pm to 7:00pm during the Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto. All members are welcome!

Section News

Election Results

Congratulations to the following SRMS members for winning their respective elections! We look forward to their service and leadership in the near future.

Chair-Elect

Roger E. Tourangeau,
University of Michigan/Maryland

Program Chair-Elect

Dave Judkins, Westat

Treasurer

Virginia M. Lesser, Oregon State University

Publications Officer

Stuart Scott, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Education Officer

Rachel A. Caspar, RTI International

ASA Fellows—SRMS Members

Please join us in congratulating the following new ASA fellows:

Thomas Belin	UCLA Center for Health Statistics
R. Ronald Bosecker	National Agricultural Statistics Service – USDA
F. Jay Breidt	Colorado State University
Raymond L. Chambers	University of Southampton
Michael P. Cohen	US Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Trena M. Ezzati-Rice	Agency for Healthcare Research Quality
Susan M. Hinkins	NORC
Parthasarathi Lahiri	University of Maryland – College Park
Lisa M. LaVange	Inspire Pharmaceuticals
David A. Marker	Westat
Allan L. McCutcheon	University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Xiao-Li Meng	Harvard University
Thomas B. Petska	U.S. Internal Revenue Service
Robert L. Santos	NuStats Partners LP

SRMSNET

All postings should be sent to:
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Newsletter on the Web

This newsletter and past SRMS newsletters can be read on the web: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/>.

Executive Committee Reports

Publications Officer Report

By Mike Cohen, BTS

By the time you read this, I will have attended my first national American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) meeting. Why is this relevant? One of the duties of the Publications Officer is to determine the content of the *Proceedings of the Survey Methods Research Section*. Of course, papers presented at SRMS sponsored sessions at the Joint Statistical Meetings go into our *Proceedings*. But so traditionally do the “methodologically oriented” AAPOR papers. This is a service to our members who benefit from having the papers in a convenient place. Papers presented at SRMS sessions at biometrics conferences have also been included in our *Proceedings*. It is the job of the Publications Officer to make the final determination of what does and does not get included.

While on the topic of the *Proceedings*, I urge all SRMS paper presenters to write up their papers and submit them to the *Proceedings*. This promotes the diffusion of new ideas among our members. The Section has historically had a relatively high rate of *Proceedings* submissions, and I would like to see this continue or, better yet, increase.

I cannot close without acknowledging the exemplary service of Tony An of SAS Institute, our *Amstat* Online Assistant Editor (Webmaster), and Brian Meekins of BLS, our Newsletter Editor.

Education Officer Report

By Dave Chapman, FDIC

Each year the ASA Advisory Committee on Continuing Education arranges for an invited two-day short course to be presented at the Annual Meeting as the cornerstone of the continuing education program. For the 2004 meeting in Toronto, the cornerstone two-day course is "Sample Survey Methods: Recent Developments and Applications," presented by J.N.K. Rao of Carleton University and Sharon Lohr of Arizona State, on Saturday and Sunday, August 7-8.

In addition, our Section is co-sponsoring a one-day Short Course in Toronto, "Introduction to Survey Quality" by Paul Biemer of RTI International and Lars Lyberg of Statistics Sweden. This course will be presented on Monday, August 9, which will allow attendees to take this course and the two-day cornerstone course on recent developments in survey sampling.

Anyone who has suggestions for short course topics for future ASA meetings should send them to Dave Chapman at dachapman@fdic.gov.

Treasurer's Report

by Tom Belin

On January 1, 2004, the SRMS section started with a balance of \$71,489.07. As of May 15, 2004, the balance was \$73,925.44, a net surplus of \$2,436.37. During the same period in 2003, there was a net surplus of \$521.52. The sources of the difference are various, including a contribution to a conference during 2003 that was recognized during the first part of the year, but a noteworthy source of revenue in 2004 was an \$800 contribution from Nielsen Media Research to sponsor two additional student travel fellowships, bringing the total number of student fellowships from 8 to 10. (See report herein on student travel awards.)

During the entire calendar year of 2003, the SRMS account balance went from \$76,907.33 to \$71,489.07. Many SRMS expenses hit the ledger later in the year, as many involve activities at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Consistent with discussions at recent SRMS business meetings about using the available fund balance to provide additional services to section members, we can expect some further reduction in the overall account balance in 2004.



Standing Committee Reports

Fellows Committee

by Mary Mulry

The SRMS Fellows Committee meets yearly at the Joint Statistical Meetings and confers throughout the year by e-mail. This year the Committee members are Paul Biemer, Don Dillman, Mary Mulry (chair), Chris Skinner, Lynne Stokes, and Clyde Tucker.

The Committee's charge is to monitor the selection of SRMS members for ASA Fellow. The Committee primarily is concerned with identifying any SRMS members who deserve to be an ASA fellow but who somehow have been overlooked. Whenever the Committee identifies a SRMS member who should be nominated, it works to find a nominator. Each year there are two to four nominations that the Committee initiates. Often nominations of SRMS members come from sources other than the Committee.

This year's nomination process has just completed, and SRMS can boast that 14 of its members are new ASA Fellows. However, planning for next year will be underway very soon. Committee members welcome all suggestions.

SRMS Standing Committees

Behavioral Risk Factor/Survey Committee

Jim Lepkowski, Betsy Martin, Donna Brogan,
Paul Lavrakas, Sarah Nusser, Michael Elliott

Committee on ASA Fellows

Mary Mulry (Chair) (817) 927-9570
(817) 921-4085 (fax) mary_mulry@yahoo.com
Don Dillman, Paul Biemer, Lynne Stokes, Clyde
Tucker, Chris Skinner

SIPP Working Group

Michael Sheridan (Chair) (613) 951-6155,
(613) 951-0566 (Fax), shermik@statcan.ca,
Rachel Connelly, Mick Couper, Thomas MaCurdy,
Fritz Scheuren, Allen Schirm, Roger Tourangeau
Census Bureau Staff:
Alan Tupek, Daniel Weinberg, Lawrence Cahoon

Awards

Winners of the 2004 Student Paper Competition

by Jana Asher, Section on Government Statistics,
Jonaki Bose, Social Statistics Section, and
Partha Lahiri, Section on Survey Research Methods

We are pleased to announce the winners for this year's student paper competition jointly sponsored by the Section on Government Statistics, Social Statistics Section and Section on Survey Research Methods:

- Bidisha Mandal, The Ohio State University - *Imputing Missing Income Data and Weighting Data with Imputed Income.*
- Murthy N. Mittinty, University of Canterbury - *Imputation by Propensity Matching.*
- Sujata Patil, University of Michigan - *Jointly Modeling Latent Trajectories and a Subsequent Outcome Variable: A Bayesian Approach.*
- Nikolaos Tzavidis, University of Southampton - *Using Double Sampling to Correct Gross Flows for Misclassification Error: Moment-based Inference vs. Likelihood-based Inference.*
- Yang Yang, Duke University - *A Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling Approach to Age-Period-Cohort Analyses of Repeated Cross-Section Survey Data.*

The winners will present their papers in a topic contributed session scheduled on Tuesday, August 10, at 10:30 am. We encourage you to attend this session to show our support to the winners. Each of the five students will receive a subsidy of \$800 to cover travel expenses to attend JSM 2004.

We thank all students who submitted papers for this year's competition. We received many outstanding papers and the selection of the winners was indeed a challenging task. We encourage all students to submit papers for the 2005 competition.

JSM Student Travel Awards

by Tom Belin

As noted at last year's SRMS business meeting and in the last SRMS newsletter, a new student travel award program is making its debut as an SRMS initiative for 2004. After an initial allocation of SRMS funds to support 8 travel awards of \$400 each, Nielsen Media Research responded to the announcement of the program by donating funds to support 2 additional awards.

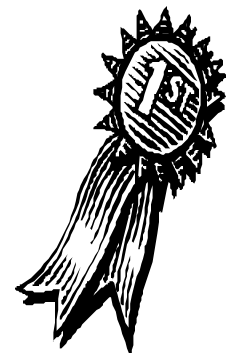
Applications were developed by a Student Travel Award Committee consisting of the Treasurer (Tom Belin), Past Chair (Lynne Stokes), senior Council of Sections Representative (Elizabeth Stasny), and Continuing Education Officer (Dave Chapman). The application involved filling out a cover page, writing a 1-2 page essay, providing a transcript, getting the signature of an SRMS member in support of the application, and optionally obtaining a letter of recommendation. Advertising for the program was limited to the January 2004 SRMS newsletter, email announcements on SRMSNet (one on March 4 to announce the program and one on April 26 to remind members of the April 30 application deadline), and word of mouth. This process resulted in our receiving 15 applications.

The Student Travel Award Committee then reviewed the applications. Procedures were established to avoid having committee members rank applications by students in their own department or whom they had otherwise nominated. We are pleased to announce the following winners of 2004 Student Travel Fellowships:

- Haiying Chen, Dept. of Statistics, Ohio State University
- Jim Greiner, Dept. of Statistics, Harvard University
- Christine Kohnen, Institute of Statistics and Decision Sciences, Duke University
- Jianzhu Li, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland
- Xiaobai Li, Dept. of Statistics, Ohio State University
- Jingchen Liu, Dept. of Statistics, Harvard University
- Andy Peytchev, Survey Methodology Program, University of Michigan
- Emilia Peytcheva, Survey Methodology Program, University of Michigan
- Ting Yan, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland
- Qingzhao Yu, Dept. of Statistics, Ohio State University

In addition to travel support, Student Travel Fellows (and winners of the Student Paper Competition) will be allowed to choose an SRMS sponsored continuing education course to attend.

The committee was pleased at the level of interest in the award, and we encourage members to reach out to Student Travel Fellows at this summer's Joint Statistical Meetings.



Bryant Scholarship to be Awarded

Each year an outstanding graduate student in Survey Statistics is awarded the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship to help support the student's graduate education. Westat established the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Trust Fund in 1995 to honor its co-founder and long-time leader. Under Dr. Bryant's leadership, Westat, an employee-owned statistical firm established in 1961, grew into what is now one of the world's leading statistical research firms with a staff of almost 3,000. Selection of the scholarship recipient is made by the ASA Bryant Scholarship Award Committee. The selection criteria include potential to contribute to survey statistics, applied experience in survey statistics, and performance in graduate school. The award consists of a certificate and a \$1,500.00 cash prize.

The 2004 winner will be presented at the Presidential Address at the JSM in Toronto.

For more information about the 2005 scholarship including an application, see www.amstat.org/awards/bryant.html.

An additional contact is Jean Opsomer, the Committee Chair at jopsomer@iastate.edu or (515) 294-0212. Applications and letters of recommendation must be received by April 30, 2005 for consideration.

Nominations Sought for Waksberg Paper

The journal *Survey Methodology* has established an annual invited paper series in honor of Joseph Waksberg, who has made many important contributions to survey methodology. Each year a prominent survey researcher is chosen to author an article as part of the Waksberg Invited Paper Series. The paper reviews the development and current state of a significant topic within the field of survey methodology, and reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterizes Waksberg's work. The author receives a cash award made possible by a grant from Westat, in recognition of Joe Waksberg's contributions during his many years of association with Westat. The grant is administered financially by the American Statistical Association. Previous winners were Gad Nathan, Wayne Fuller, Tim Holt, and Norman Bradburn, and J.N.K. Rao. The first four papers in the series have already appeared in *Survey Methodology*.

The author of the 2006 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the American Statistical Association. Nominations of individuals to be considered as authors or suggestions for topics should be sent to the chair of the committee, David

Bellhouse, Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences, Western Science Centre, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5B7, by e-mail to bellhouse@stats.uwo.ca. Nominations and suggestions for topics must be received by December 10, 2004.

Upcoming Conferences

Second International Conference on Telephone Survey Methodology January 2006

It has been more than 15 years since the international conference devoted to telephone survey methodology was held. In the intervening years, there have been rapid changes in telephone systems and telephone survey methodology, including the use of list-assisted designs. The impact of these changes varies internationally. Changes in the telephone system include a revolution in cellular service, new numbering systems allowing greater portability of telephone numbers, and features that protect privacy and access. Telephone subscribers have also changed how they use the telephone. The goals of the conference will be to bring together researchers and survey practitioners from around the world concerned with telephone survey methodology and practice in order to stimulate research papers that contribute to the science of reducing errors attributable to poor telephone survey design, to provide documentation of current practices, and to stimulate new ideas for further research and development. A call for monograph papers was issued in June 2004, and a call for contributed papers is expected in November 2004. For more information, contact Clyde Tucker of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at tucker_c@bls.gov.

The editor wishes to thank the past editors, Leslie Wallace and Tom Krenzke for their assistance and guidance in producing this newsletter. This newsletter was printed by Laurie Logan, 1315 Yellow Tavern Court, Herndon, VA 20170. FAX: (703) 430-3430. Phone: (703) 430-0234. The editor wishes to thank Laurie for her contribution.





Mission Statement

The mission of the Section on Survey Research Methods is to promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods by encouraging both theoretical and applied research on survey-related topics and by disseminating information on survey methods.

Areas of interest for the Section include all that employ survey methodology as a focus or as a prime tool of investigation. Of special interest are:

- ❖ Theoretical foundations of sampling;
- ❖ Sample design and estimation;
- ❖ Nonsampling errors and data collection methods;
- ❖ Analysis and presentation of survey data;
- ❖ Education of the public and students on the importance of scientific survey research;
- ❖ Publication and dissemination of survey research findings; and
- ❖ Ethics related to survey conduct and standards for survey practice.

American Statistical Association
1429 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3402
USA

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Survey Research Methods Section of ASA

Executive Committee Members

Voting Officers Survey Research Methods Section

Address:	Past Chair (2004) S. Lynne Stokes Department of Statistical Science Southern Methodist University 3225 Daniel Avenue Dallas, TX 75275	Address:	Program Chair (2004) Parthasarathi Lahiri University of Maryland 1218 Lefrak Hall JPSM College Park, MD 20742-8241	Address:	Publications Officer (2003-2004) Michael P. Cohen U. S. Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics 400 Seventh Street, SW, #4432 Washington, DC 20590-0001
Phone:	(214) 768-2270	Phone:	(301) 314-5903	Phone:	(202) 366-9949
FAX:	(214) 768-4035	FAX:	(301) 314-7912	FAX:	(202) 366-3385
E-mail:	slstokes@mail.smu.edu	E-mail:	plahiri@survey.umd.edu	E-mail:	michael.cohen@bts.gov
Address:	Chair (2004) Sharon Lohr Arizona State University Dept of Mathematics and Statistics Tempe, AZ 85287-1804	Address:	Program Chair-Elect (2004) Rachel M. Harter NORC Suite 4800 55 East Monroe St. Chicago, IL 60603-5713	Address:	Treasurer (2003-2004) Thomas Belin UCLA Dept. of Biostatistics 51-267 Center for Health Sciences Los Angeles, CA 90095-1772
Phone:	(480) 965-4440	Phone:	(312) 759-4058	Phone:	(310) 206-7361
FAX:	(480) 965-8119	FAX:	(312) 759-4090	FAX:	(310) 206-7361
E-mail:	sharon.lohr@asu.edu	E-mail:	harter@norcmail.uchicago.edu	E-mail:	tbelin@ucla.edu
Address:	Chair-Elect (2004) Sarah M. Nusser Iowa State University Dept. of Statistics Ames, IA 50011-1210	Address:	Secretary (2004-2005) Elaine Zanutto The Wharton School University of Pennsylvania 3730 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA 19104-6340	Address:	Education Officer (To be elected in Spring '04)
Phone:	(515) 294-9773	Phone:	(215) 898-8231		
FAX:	(515) 294-4433	FAX:	(215) 898-1280		
E-mail:	nusser@iastate.edu	E-mail:	zanutto@wharton.upenn.edu		
Address:	Council of Sections Representative (2004-2006) Stephen H. Cohen Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. Department of Labor 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE Washington, D.C. 20212	Address:	Council of Sections Representative (2003-2005) Elizabeth Stasny Ohio State University 1958 Neil Ave. 147E Cockins Hall Columbus, OH 43210		
Phone:	(202) 691-7400	Phone:	(614) 292-0784		
FAX:	(202) 691-7426	FAX:	(614) 292-2096		
E-mail:	Cohen_Steve@bls.gov	E-mail:	eas@stat.ohio-state.edu		
Non-Voting Members					
Address:	Historian Pat Brick Westat 1650 Research Blvd Rockville, MD 20850	Address:	Newsletter Editor Brian J. Meekins Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. Department of Labor 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE Washington, D.C. 20212	Address:	Education Officer (Appointed) David Chapman Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. 550 17th Street NW Washington, DC 20429-9990
Phone:	(301) 517-8047	Phone:	(202) 691-7594	Phone:	(202) 898-7280
FAX:	(301) 294-3928	FAX:	(202) 691-7426	FAX:	(202) 898-7222
E-mail:	patbrick@westat.com	E-mail:	Meekins.Brian@bls.gov	E-mail:	dachapman@fdic.gov
Address:	ASA Staff Liaison William B. Smith, Ph.D. American Statistical Association 1429 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314	Address:	Assistant Editor, AmStat Online - (2002-2003) Anthony An SAS Institute, Inc. Cary, NC 27513		
Phone:	(703) 684-1221, x 134	Phone:	(919) 531-5879		
FAX:	(703) 684-6456	FAX:	(919) 677-4444		
E-mail:	williamsb@amstat.org	E-mail:	Anthony.An@sas.com		