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## **AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2015 GERTRUDE M. COX SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Scholarship encourages women to enter statistically oriented professions*

**SEATTLE, WA, AUGUST 10, 2015** – The American Statistical Association (ASA), the nation's preeminent professional statistical society, has announced the recipients of the 2015 Gertrude M. Cox scholarships.

Two \$1,000 scholarships were presented during a special awards ceremony last night at the [2015 Joint Statistical Meetings \(JSM 2015\)](#) in Seattle.

The recipients of the 2015 Cox scholarships, who were honored for outstanding academic achievement in a statistics program, are:

**Sara Ann Stoudt**, University of California, Berkeley, who was honored for her outstanding academic achievement as an undergraduate student at Smith College in preparation for pursuing an advanced statistics degree and for active participation in statistical research and collaboration related to surface temperature measurement. She also was praised for advancing statistics education through co-development of student activities and related resources and contributing generously to her scientific and local communities through activities such as editing the *Smith Science Journal* and providing statistical consultation for a local Massachusetts school district.

**Elizabeth Sweeney**, The Johns Hopkins University, who was honored for her high academic achievement while an undergraduate student in the Johns Hopkins biostatistics program and for her outstanding contributions to improving analysis of neuroimaging data through numerous publications, presentations and patents. She also was lauded for her leadership in department activities such as mentoring and journal club organization and active participation in the broader statistical community.

Honorable mentions were awarded to Meredith Bartley, Penn State University; Kaitlyn Cook, Harvard University; and Jami Jackson, North Carolina State University.

Since 1989, the Cox Scholarship has been awarded annually by the ASA Committee on Women in Statistics and the Caucus for Women in Statistics to encourage women to enter statistically oriented professions. Cox, who was born in 1900, was a pioneer in the predominantly male discipline of statistics and one of the first women in the field. She became the first woman—and the first person—to earn a master's degree in statistics from Iowa State University.

In 1939, Cox was appointed assistant professor of statistics at Iowa State and then became professor of statistics at North Carolina State University at Raleigh in 1940. She helped establish the department of experimental statistics at North Carolina State, the Institute of Statistics of the Consolidated University of North Carolina and the statistics research division of the Research Triangle Institute. In 1949, she became the first female elected into the International Statistical Institute; she was president of the American Statistical Association in 1956 and elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1975. She is fondly called the First Lady of Statistics.

Women who are entering or who are in the early stages of graduate training (master's or PhD) are encouraged to apply for the Cox Scholarship. The submission deadline for 2016 applications is February 23. Applicants also must submit an academic reference letter; [both forms can be accessed here](#).

JSM 2015 is being held August 8–13 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle. More than 6,000 statisticians—representing academia, business and industry, as well as national, state and local governments—from numerous countries are attending North America's largest statistical science gathering.

#### ***About JSM 2015***

JSM, which has been held annually since 1974, is being conducted jointly this year by 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. [Click here for more information about JSM 2015](#).

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

The ASA is the world's largest community of statisticians and the second-oldest continuously operating professional 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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