

# NISS Parameters

Fall/Winter 2012

*A newsletter from the National Institute of Statistical Sciences*



## National Science Foundation Awards Grant to Run the NSF-Census Research Network Coordination Office

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded NISS and Cornell University a grant for over \$700,000 to run the NSF-Census Research Network Coordination Office (NCRN-CO). The NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN) consists of eight nodes, each comprised of researchers conducting innovative, high-disciplinary investigations of theory, methodology and computational tools of interest and significance to the Census Bureau, the federal statistics system and the broader research community.

The eight nodes include Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Colorado at Boulder/University of Tennessee, Cornell University, Duke University/ National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), the University of Michigan, the University of Missouri/Ohio State University, the University of Nebraska and Northwestern University.

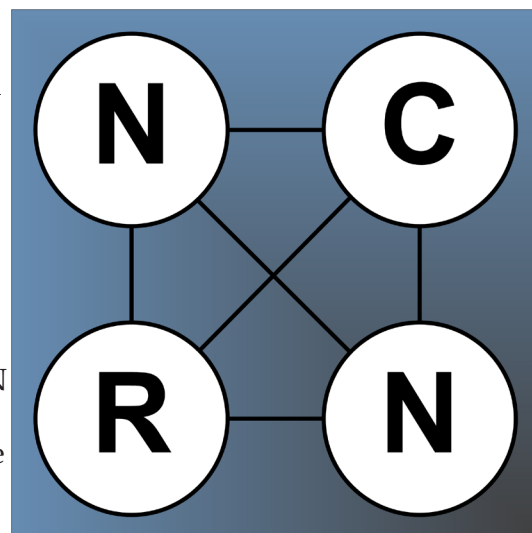
The NCRN-CO will be led by NISS and Cornell University. It will foster communication

and collaboration among the nodes of the NCRN and will focus the network's relationships with many external stakeholders including federal statistical agencies, researchers in academia and the private sector, professional associations, international bodies and the press and public. The NCRN-CO will organize semi-annual meetings and will facilitate information sharing within the NCRN. It will coordinate educational activities at NCRN nodes and conduct workshops and seminars that disseminate the research products of the NCRN. NCRN-CO will also maintain a website that communicates the activities and research happening at the various nodes.

"NCRN-CO will help the NCRN nodes to leverage each other's research achievements and will help to lead to scientific and societal impact that exceed the sum of the individual impacts," remarked Alan Karr, director of NISS and principal

investigator on the NCRN-CO award.

NCRN-CO will have a newsletter, an annual report, research briefs, news releases,



special sessions at professional society meetings and special issues of leading research journals. The postdoctoral fellows and graduate students who work with the network will be great assets to future official statistics organizations.

More information will be shared on the website: [www.ncrn.info](http://www.ncrn.info) in the future.

# William Q. Meeker Receives the 2012 Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research

NISS presented the 2012 Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research to Dr.

William Q. Meeker, Iowa State University. Susan Ellenberg, chair of the Board of Trustees, announced the award at the 2012 Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego, California. The annual award, named in honor of Jerome (Jerry) Sacks, the founding director of NISS, was established in 2000 to recognize “sustained, high-quality cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences.”

Meeker received the award for outstanding sustained research that

develops, implements, documents, communicates, and teaches statistics for the solution of relevant

software, degradation data analysis, and statistical methods for nondestructive evaluation.



*From (L-R) Chairwoman Susan Ellenberg, Distinguished Service Award winner James Landwehr, Sacks Award winner William Meeker and Distinguished Service Award winner Linda Young.*

Meeker is Professor of Statistics and Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State, where he has taught since 1975. He is also a faculty affiliate at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He serves as an associate editor of *Technometrics* and is a member of the

editorial board for Lifetime Data Analysis. He is a fellow of the

(Continued on page 6)

## Landwehr and Young Receive the 2012 NISS Distinguished Service Awards

James Landwehr and Linda Young are this year’s recipients of the Distinguished Service Awards. The awards were presented by NISS director Alan Karr at the NISS/SAMSI reception at the 2012 Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego, California.

The NISS Distinguished Service Awards were established by the Board of Trustees in 2005 to recognize individuals who have given extraordinary service that significantly advances NISS and its mission. As Karr noted,

the recipients “didn’t have to do what they did for NISS, but did it because they believe in NISS and what it does for the statistics community.”

Jim Landwehr, who works at Avaya Laboratories, was recognized for his many years of serving on the NISS Board of Trustees, which include chairing the Board for three years and serving this past year as chair of the Board’s Affiliates Committee.

Linda Young, professor of statistics at the University of

Florida, was acknowledged for her service on the Board of Trustees and leadership role in the NISS-NASS research program, which ran from 2009 to 2011.

Both Landwehr’s and Young’s names will be added to a plaque that is displayed in the lobby of the NISS building in Research Triangle Park, which lists the names of all recipients. Each also received a NISS T-shirt from Karr.

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# Postdoc Profile:

# Hang Kim

NISS recently hired Hang J. Kim as a postdoctoral fellow, shared with Duke University, to work on the NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN) project. NISS and Duke are one of the eight nodes that are all looking at how federal statistical agencies disseminate data to the public and to researchers.

Hang grew up in Seoul, Korea and when he was studying at Yonsei University in Seoul, many of his friends were studying statistics so he got a dual bachelor's degree in business and applied statistics. He also received his master's degree in statistics from Yonsei. Hang spent the last six years in Columbus, Ohio where he received his Ph.D. in statistics from Ohio State University, studying under Dr. Steven MacEachern.

Hang's area of expertise is Bayesian analysis, particularly in Markov chain Monte Carlo methods and non-parametric Bayesian approaches.

Hang is excited to be working on survey research because his master's degree was related to survey analysis. He also worked as a full-time consultant at the Institute of Statistical Science in Yonsei University back in 2006, helping to evaluate official economic statistics produced by the Korean government for Statistics Korea. His expertise in nonparametric Bayesian approaches will be useful as the NCRN team will be using this



*Hang Kim and his son, Alex.*

approach for multiple imputation of missing data in high dimensions with longitudinal and multi-level aspects, and to address central issues in the data integration.

Hang's great joy is his wife, Hyun, and his son, Alex, who is four-years-old. Most of his time is spent with them when he is not at work, but Hang also likes to play a lot of sports, including basketball, softball, baseball, and soccer. He is happy to see the basketball net in the NISS parking lot!

He is a member of the American Statistical Association (ASA), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA), Korean Statistical Society (KSS) and the Korean International Statistical Society (KISS).

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# NISS “Family” News Bytes

## Former NISS Postdoc and Graduate Student Updates

**Yingchun (Jasmine) Zhou** recently wrote a paper with Nell Sedransk entitled “A new functional data-based biomarker for monitoring cardiovascular behavior” that was accepted by *Statistics in Medicine*. Zhou also said she has received funding from the National Science Foundation of China and the Shanghai Science and Technology Committee for some of her work.

**Jian (Frank) Zou** reports that he and his family have settled down in Carmel, a suburb of Indianapolis and he is loving his new job as assistant professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Frank gave a talk at the ICSA in Boston, and a topic-contributed talk at JSM in San Diego.

**Kenny Lopiano**, who participated in the NISS-NASS program for two years, defended his thesis at the University of Florida on Friday, June 8. His research focuses on accounting for Berkson model in generalized linear models with spatial correlation. He is now a postdoctoral fellow at SAMSI! **Nate Holt**, also from University of Florida, participated in the NISS-EIA program for two years. His Ph.D. research has focused on assessing spatio-temporal association using Moran’s I. He defended his thesis on June 8.

## Affiliate Updates

**Dipak Dey** from the University of Connecticut recently won the UConn AAUP Edward C. Marth Mentorship Award. The award recognizes those who encourage and reward outstanding mentoring of graduate students.

## NISS Staff Updates

**Stan Young** spoke at the HCCA Research Compliance Conference in Austin, Texas in May. He talked about the case of Dr. Potti from Duke University. Stan also spoke to the Prostate Cancer Foundation in Carlsbad, California October 25-27.

**Larry Cox** organized the Cell Suppression workshop that was held in May in Washington DC. Larry attended the Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys in Montreal, participating as the short course instructor for Balancing Quality and Confidentiality for Establishment Data. He also presented a paper, “Microsimulation of a Government Survey” and was a discussant for the “Disclosure Limitation Methods for Tabular Data.” He gave a presentation at the DC AAPOR conference June 21-22.



*Alan Karr was recently honored by Johns Hopkins University and was given lifetime membership to the Society of Scholars for his work and dedication for the many years he spent at the university. With him are his former Hopkins colleagues John Wierman and Daniel Naiman.*

# NISS and ASA Recognize Yili Hong with the y-BIS Award

Yili Hong, Assistant Professor at the Department of Statistics, Virginia Tech, received this year's Young Statisticians in Business and Industry (y-BIS) Award. The award recognizes the best paper, based on both content and delivery, presented by an early career researcher at the International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics Conference (ISBIS), which was held in June in Bangkok, Thailand. Hong's paper was entitled "A Special Non-homogeneous Poisson Process Estimation for Window-Observation Repairable Systems."



*Yili Hong giving his talk at the conference in Bangkok.*

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) and the American Statistical Association (ASA) jointly sponsor the y-BIS Award, and together provide the \$1,000 cash prize given to the recipient.

Yili Hong received his Ph.D. in Statistics from Iowa State University in 2009, and joined the Virginia Tech Faculty that year. His research interests include reliability, industrial statistics, survival analysis and biostatistics. During 2010, he served as a consultant to the GE Global Research Center.

The names of all the candidates, finalists and winner were announced by ISBIS President (and former NISS Board of Trustees chair) Vijay Nair at the closing ceremony on June 20.

Each of the other finalists for the y-BIS Award received a certificate. They are: Cha-Chi Fan, US Energy Information Administration, Washington DC, USA ; Carolina García-Matos, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Madrid, SPAIN; and Nuttanan Wichitaksorn, University of Sydney Business School, Sydney, AUSTRALIA.

More information about ISBIS 2012 is available at <http://www.isbis2012-thailand.org>

## NISS Calendar of Events

NISS Annual Board of Trustees Meeting

November 2-3, 2012 at NISS headquarters in Research Triangle Park, NC.

Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCoS) 2013

June 2-5, 2013 in Montgomery Bell State Park near Nashville, TN.





# Photos from JSM 2012 in San Diego, CA



*Susie Bayarri, Jerry Sacks and Nell Sedransk.*

## **Sacks Award (Continued)**

*(From page 2)*

American Statistical Association, an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, a fellow of the American Society for Quality, and has received numerous accolades including being named Statistician of the Year by the Chicago Chapter of ASA.

Accepting the award, Meeker said that, "I am honored to have won the 2012 Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research. One of the biggest changes that I have seen in the Statistics discipline since I began my career is that now there is a widely-held understanding about the critically important role that statistics can and should play in cross-disciplinary research. Jerry Sacks was getting deeply involved in cross-disciplinary research before it became fashionable to do so. Jerry also played an important part in helping to change the attitude of the statistics discipline toward appreciating the importance of collaborative interdisciplinary research. We can see evidence of Jerry's impact in the successes at NISS both during and after his term as Director."

Meeker's research focuses on industrial and economic statistics, reliability and life testing, survival analysis, applied time series, nondestructive evaluation, and statistical computing.

As Sacks award recipient, Meeker receives \$1,000, and his name is added to a plaque at NISS that lists all recipients of the award.



*David Banks and Jim Landwehr.*



*Vijay Nair and Lee Wilkinson.*



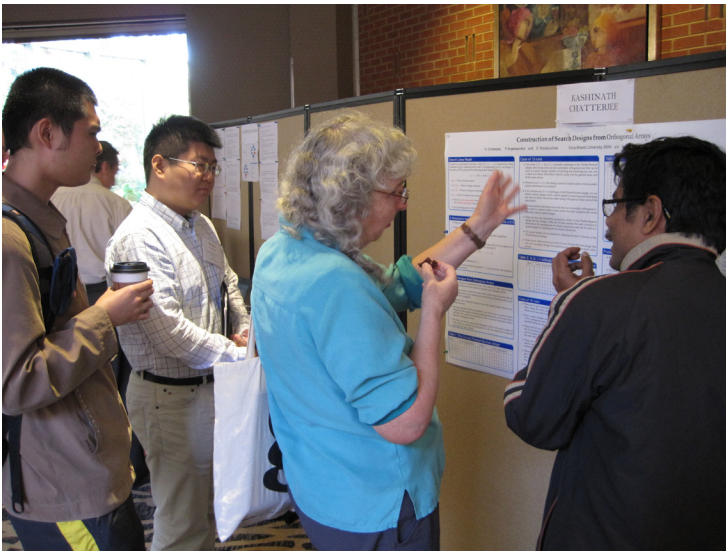
*Steve Cohen and Ivan Carrillo-Garcia.*



# Photos from DAE 2012 and ICORS 2012



*Dinner at Design and Analysis of Experiments (DAE) Conference on October 18, in the Georgia Center. NISS is a co-sponsor of this event.*



*Rosemary Bailey (Queen Mary, University of London) in discussion with poster presenter Kashinath Chatterjee (Visva Bharati University, India) at the DAE Conference.*



*Group shot from the International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS) 2012 held in Burlington, Vermont. NISS is a co-sponsor of this event.*

## Donate to the NISS Fund

Gifts of any size to the NISS Fund enable us to increase our value added to the community, such as helping us pursue new research opportunities, fund a postdoc to attend important workshops and meetings, or for NISS to conduct a new research workshop. Please visit our website at [www.niss.org](http://www.niss.org) to make your contribution. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated!

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*Duke University, Departments of Statistical*  
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