

Affiliates Update

DECEMBER | 2021

WELCOME!

This Affiliates Update is the last communication for 2021, and we wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a very happy and healthy New Year! This past year has been exciting and eventful in many ways. We look forward to new activities, engaging new friends, and making new connections in 2022. However, we note with extreme sadness the passing of Lee Wilkinson, a wonderful colleague and friend, and an outstanding leader who provided outstanding expertise and leadership to our profession and to NISS over many years.

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS AFFILIATES UPDATE TO YOUR COLLEAGUES!

NISS sponsored events encourage cross-sector and cross-disciplinary networking. Let us know if you are planning an event and would like NISS to co-sponsor it. NISS affiliates can use their award funds to support these events or receive discounted registration. For more information about the NISS Affiliate program, see: <https://www.niss.org/affiliate-program-information>.

James Rosenberger
Director NISS

2021 - WHAT A YEAR!

Each year it is customary to look back and reflect on the accomplishments of the past year. In fact, NISS has a tradition of doing this and recording notable moments, events and activities since its inception in 1990. You can find a record of these listed on the [Timeline / History page of the NISS website](#).

In doing so this year, it has clearly been a year unlike many others! Clearly NISS ramped up its efforts on connecting and supporting its affiliates and the statistics and data science community - despite the pandemic!

Here is a list of notable accomplishments for NISS in 2021:

- NISS continued to help place focus on the COVID pandemic collaborating with other organizations to help host town halls, webinars, tutorials, forums and a conference partnering with organizations that included ASA, ISI, COPSS, Merck and CANSII.
- “Data Science Essentials for Business” tutorials were taught focusing on the Top 10 analytics approaches used in business.
- Ingram Olkin - *Statistics Serving Society* forum supported

the continued work of focus groups on “Unplanned Clinical Trial Disruptions” as well as hosted a forum on “Police Use of Force.”

- Expansion of programs for early career statisticians which included the Writing Workshop, a series of Career Fairs, a student graphics competition, as well as virtual events, a conference and socials hosted by the NISS Graduate Student Network.
- Exemplary collaborative research efforts with both USDA-NASS and NCES resulted in published manuscripts, technical reports and major awards including NASS Cooperator of the Year and USDA Undersecretary’s Award that highlight their accomplishments.

NISS would like to extend sincere thanks to all those that have contributed in even small ways to the successes of the events and activities of this past year. It is only with the input and support of affiliates and others that these achievements are possible!

NISS looks forward to an energetic and busy new year!

RECENT EVENT: GOVERNMENT AGENCY CAREER FAIR

Government Agency Career Fair - Fall 2021

“When you work for the government, you’re not just working for a job, you are working for a mission.”

Eileen O’Brien (NASS)

We had an outstanding lineup of speakers during this Government Career Fair which took place on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, from 12-1:30 pm ET. Statisticians in governmental institutions have an important role to play when it comes to the data they collect, as well as the importance of the research they engage in. The research that comes from this data becomes very influential in the choices that are made in government and is the principal foundation for informing policy issues that impact all aspects of society in the United States.

This session gave us a better sense of what it’s like to work as a statistician in a governmental agency and provides valuable input about the kinds of opportunities there are for data scientists in the federal government. More importantly, this webinar better informs us on how to prepare yourself for obtaining a governmental position and the types of skills necessary to perform statistical research once you get there.

For this Government Career Fair, NISS brought together speakers who have extensive knowledge and experience in working for the federal government. These speakers included Patricia S. Hu (Bureau of Transportation Statistics), Rachel E. Morgan (Bureau of Justice Statistics), and was moderated by Eileen O’Brien (National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)). The original speakers list during this session included Jeffrey Gonzalez with the USDA Economic Research Service, however due to last minute changes his presentation will be postponed until the next Governmental Career Fair in Spring 2022.

Our speakers gave great resources to prospective employees and gave us a better understanding of the kinds of projects statisticians in a federal agency work on. Each presenter gave a 15-20 minute overview of their experiences, and shared information about their agencies and helpful tips to getting through the application process. This webinar also allowed for Q&A throughout the session and the speakers continued to answer questions after their presentations.

What advice would you give to students based on your experience?

- Use **USAJOBS** as a resource to research jobs that sound interesting, understand knowledge and skills requirements, go to the agency website and look at their work
- U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website for **position classification** and statistics group

The U.S. transportation system moves 55 tons of freight per year for every man, woman and child

Freight flow database based on:

- Commodity Flow Survey
- Integration with multiple other data
- Geospatial data
- Network assignment model

Speakers: Eileen O'Brien, Rachel Morgan, Patricia Hu, Jeffrey Gonzalez

[Read the complete story with session recording and links to the slides used by the speakers on the NISS website!](#)

NISS PRESS RELEASE

NISS Notes the Passing of a Beloved Colleague

With much sadness, NISS notes the passing of a good friend and colleague, **Leland (Lee) Wilkinson** (November 5, 1944 – December 10, 2021). Lee was a current Member of the NISS Board of Trustees since 2016 and a long-term friend and supporter of NISS. He has taken part in many NISS hosted events over the years most recently the NISS Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers, the webinar *“What’s in a name – data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence and what else?”* and taught the NISS Essential Data Science for Business tutorial, *“Descriptive Analytics, Exploratory Data Analysis, and Data Visualization.”*

In 2010 he was the recipient of the NISS Distinguished Service Award. His citation epitomizes his positive impact on NISS, then and hence: *“In recognition of too many forms of service to NISS to list. The most notable things, of course, are his four years as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, seven+ years as chair of the Affiliates Committee, and at least six years on the Executive Committee. Equally important, he has been a major force in several affiliates’ workshops and formation of the affiliates’ clusters. Speaking personally again, his wise counsel and support have helped me have the confidence to move NISS forward.”*

Lee was Chief Scientist at H2O, and Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He wrote the SYSTAT statistical package and founded SYSTAT Inc. in 1984. His awards included Fellow of the American Statistical Association, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He is also the author of *The Grammar of Graphics*, the foundation for a number of commercial and open-source visual analytic systems.

NISS mourns the loss of a wonderful colleague and friend, and extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Marilyn Vogel, and his daughters Amie Wilkinson and Caroline Wilkinson.



JANUARY 2022

NISS Statistically Accurate Interactive Displays ... in Graphics!

Call to Competition Date: January 15, 2022
Event Type: Student Competition

Do you love to make insightful discoveries in education data and cutting-edge visualizations to display them? NISS has a New COMPETITION FOR YOU! Great examples of data visualization and interactive graphics are popping up everywhere! See the examples collected at these sites: The 34 Best... ([read more](#))

APRIL

14th Annual Conference on Statistical Issues in Clinical Trials: Subgroup Analysis

Event Date: April 12, 2022, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM ET
Event Location: University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Conference Theme is Subgroup Analysis. Save the Date! Registration will open beginning in January 2022! ([read more](#))

AUGUST

International Total Survey Error Workshop (ITSEW) 2022

Event Date: 31 August - 2 September, 2022
Event Location: University of Manchester, UK

Theme: "Total Error in Official Statistics: Current Practices and New Methods." The International Total Survey Error Workshop 2022 will take

place from the 31st of August through the 2nd September 2022. It will be hosted by The Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research and The Social Statistics Department,... ([read more](#))

ANTICIPATED EVENTS for 2022!

Virtual Career Fairs

Each month throughout Spring, 2022

NISS-Merck Virtual Meet-ups

Event Dates: Spring and Fall, 2022

NISS Graduate Student Research Conference

Event Date: June, 2022

Data Visualization Competition: Statistically Accurate Interactive Displays,...In Graphics!

Event Date: Spring, 2022

NISS at JSM

Event Date: August, 2022

2022 NISS Writing Workshop for Junior Researchers

Event Date: August, 2022

[Find Full Details for All Events on the NISS Website!](#)

NISS Affiliates, if you would like to be featured in upcoming career fairs, please do not hesitate to contact NISS! NISS is always looking for ways to support the missions of each affiliate.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR NEW INGRAM OLKIN FORUMS

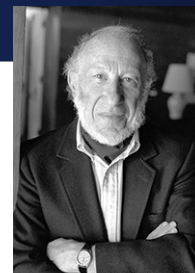
STATISTICS SERVING SOCIETY

Do you have a research topic of particular social concern that could benefit from the attention of other researchers?

NISS presents *Statistics Serving Society* (S^3), a series of forums to honor the memory of Professor Ingram Olkin. These Forums are an opportunity to gather together a particular group of experts for the first time to consider an issue. As we have seen with previous S^3 Forums, this new energy and synergy produces a flurry of new ideas and approaches!

Coming this January keep your eyes peeled for a call for proposals for the S^3 organizing committee to consider supporting!

Visit the [Ingram Olkin Forum Series web page](#) on the NISS website to review the wide array of societal issues that previous Forums have addressed.



S^3 | Statistics
Serving
Society



Become a Sponsor of NISS Hosted Events!

NISS Invites corporations, institutions and individuals to sponsor events that are hosted by NISS. Sponsorship helps to defray the cost of organizing events and is a great way to give your organization visibility that targets statisticians and other related professions who attend NISS events! [Learn More!](#)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT NISS

NISS Postdoctoral Fellow / Early Career Researcher

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is a research institute focused on bringing advances in statistics to high priority projects with national / international impact. Early career researchers at NISS have the opportunity to work with researcher leaders to develop innovative statistical solutions to high impact problems and to see the impact as these solutions are implemented.

RESEARCH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

NISS researchers make a difference by developing innovative data science technology and statistical modeling methodology for high priority projects at federal statistical agencies. Primary focus a of specific project may use statistical and AI modeling to analyze massive and high dimensional data, or develop models that integrate heterogeneous data types (satellite image, GIS, survey, theoretical or empirical model) or create statistical data visualizations. NISS Research Associates have received many awards for their contributions in innovation of statistical processes for key national statistics and indicators.

Appointments are for one year with expectation of renewal. Projects are not limited to the examples below.

Work with multidisciplinary team to formulate comprehensive technical approaches problem solving.

Develop, implement and test statistical/computational technologies for high-dimensional spatial, image, survey and/or administrative record data to create models for estimation and forecasting.

Conduct research to meet one of the following challenges:

1. Develop innovative models that integrate biological development/function (theoretical or empirical) models with historical patterns and current observed data.
2. Use deep learning technologies to analyze complex data and to create high-dimensional synthetic populations for research purposes that fully incorporate fine structure from large-scale original data.
3. Extend small-area estimation to time domain to allow interim predictions with model updating based on partial new information.
4. Create interactive graphics examples for federal data display that includes representation of uncertainty.

[See the Job Announcement on the NISS website for all details, application instructions and contacts.](#)

NISS anticipates new postdoc positions becoming available - details will be made available via the NISS website: <https://www.niss.org/careers-niss>



Affiliates! Post Your Job Announcements On the NISS Website!

A link to the Job Announcements page can be found at the bottom of every page of the NISS website! Share your announcement with other organizations associated with NISS or other visitors to our website. Interested in the positions that have been posted?

Visit the [NISS Job Announcements Page](#)

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The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is an organization whose mission fosters cross-disciplinary research and advocates for statistical engagement in data science.

NISS

www.NISS.org

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