Greetings!

As you are making summer plans, I hope that they include the upcoming JSM in Seattle, WA, August 8–13. There are many Caucus sponsored opportunities for learning, networking, and fun, and I hope that you will participate in as many as your schedule allows.

The Caucus is sponsoring sessions on ‘Implicit Bias: What Statisticians Need to Know and Do’ (Sunday, August 9, 2:00–3:50pm); ‘Leadership and Women in Statistics’ (Monday, August 10, 2:00–3:50pm); and ‘Career Insights from Women in Leadership’ (Tuesday, August 11, 2:00–3:50pm). Please check the JSM program online for the locations of these sessions, and plan to attend. Even though we have yet to conclude JSM2015, The Caucus Program Committee is busy planning for JSM2016, to be held in Chicago, July 30–August 4, 2016. If you have program ideas, please contact the Chair of the Caucus Program Committee, Ji-Hyun Lee (jihyunlee@unm.edu).

The Caucus Business Meeting and Reception is planned for Tuesday, August 11. Watch for more information regarding the specific time and location for this event, as well as for the roundtable breakfast gathering.

Volunteers are need in several areas. Ji-Hyun Lee (jihyunlee@unm.edu) is coordinating the volunteer effort to staff the Caucus information table for two-hour blocks throughout the duration of JSM. If you can assist with this for a couple of hours sometime during the week, please let her know. The Caucus is once again assisting with the First-time Attendees Orientation/Reception to be held on Sunday, August 9, 12:30 – 1:50pm. Many volunteers are needed to make this event successful. If you are a seasoned JSM veteran, please consider signing up to be a Table Host. These individuals will lead discussion at the lunch tables during the reception, to make new attendees feel welcome and to answer questions and make suggestions about getting the most from the JSM experience. You can volunteer at http://goo.gl/forms/HoOWcFFz0i. On the volunteer form, please indicate that you are a member of the Caucus for Women in Statistics. Docents are also being recruited to assist in a number of ways during JSM, including during the First-timers Reception. More information about this volunteer opportunity can be found on the ASA website (www.amstat.org).

JSM is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. The Caucus provides many opportunities for doing both. I look forward to seeing you there!!

Regards,
Paula Roberson
2015 President
Amanda L. Golbeck and Yulia R. Gel co-organized an invited panel session for the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle.

Title: Implicit Bias: What Statistician Need to Know and Do  
Chair/Moderator: Amanda L. Golbeck (Professor, University of Montana)  
Panel Discussion, Panelists:  
◊ Arlene Ash, Division Chief, Biostatistics and Health Services Research, University of Massachusetts, USA  
◊ Charmaine Dean, Dean of Science, University of Western Ontario, Canada  
◊ Mary Gray, Professor and Past Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, American University, USA  
◊ Marcia Gumpertz, Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity, North Carolina State University, USA  
◊ Nicholas P. Jewel, Head, Division of Biostatistics and Formerly Vice Provost University of California-Berkeley, USA  
◊ Jon Kettenring, RISE Director, Drew University, USA and formerly Executive Director, Bellcore and Telcordia Technologies, USA  
◊ Judith D. Singer, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity, Harvard University, USA

Yulia R. Gel and Amanda L. Golbeck co-organized an invited panel session for the 2015 60th International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Title: Maximizing the Likelihood of Diverse Leadership in Statistical Sciences  
Chair/Moderator: Amanda L. Golbeck (Professor, University of Montana)  
Panel Discussion, Panelists:  
Ksenija Dumicic; (Professor, University of Croatia)  
Ejaz Ahmed (Professor and Dean, Brock University, Canada)  
Ola Awad (President, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics)  
Bronwyn Harsch (Professor and Assistant Dean, Queensland University of Technology, Australia)  
Roy Welsch (Professor, MIT)  
Nozer Singpurwalla (Professor, City University of Hong Kong)

Read this article about biases that keep women out of STEM careers: https://hbr.org/2015/03/the-5-biases-pushing-women-out-of-stem

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

Please send us your professional news, announcements, ads and/or any other contributions to:

elena.rantou@fda.hhs.gov  
(cc: RobersonPaulaK@uams.edu)

Job notices must be submitted to Sorina Eftim by July 7, 2015 for inclusion in the Summer 2015 Newsletter. The fee for publishing a job notice of ≤12 lines is $50, a ¼ page is $100. Longer ads are $125 per page. Jobs will be posted on the website periodically as received and published in the next edition. Credit card payments can be made on the Caucus website, or a check payable to The Caucus for Women in Statistics will be accepted. Phone or e-mail inquiries
I. Please tell us a bit about your early days. Where did you grow up? Where was your schooling? What did your parents do?

I grew up in Nashville, Tennessee. My father was a businessman, owning his own business until he retired, and my mother worked part-time while raising three daughters. Both were wonderful role models for us in many areas, but particularly in terms of the importance of education and the value of a strong work ethic, and both encouraged us to pursue whatever career was of interest.

I attended public elementary school and then had the opportunity to attend a private girls’ school, Harpeth Hall, which was a very academically focused school and offered a really wonderful high school experience. The single gender education model allows girls to excel with less concern about being considered too ‘bookish,’ and we were exposed to excellent teachers, many of whom were women with Master’s or doctoral degrees, an unusual occurrence in 1960s America! I was drawn to mathematics early on, finding it to be clear and logical, but also fun. One of my high school math teachers was a strong role model, and I decided to follow her career path – a Bachelor’s degree in math in three years, followed by a Master’s.

I attended college at the University of North Carolina and was in only the 6th class to accept women as freshmen. The ratio of male to female students when I arrived in Chapel Hill was about 6:1, very different than today! Other fields, such as physics and economics, held my interest until I decided that what I most liked about them was the math underlying each, so I received my Bachelor’s degree in math, as planned. I went straight to graduate school for a Master’s in mathematics at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, which had a highly ranked mathematics department and gave me the opportunity to reside in a very different part of the country. While there, I was drawn to applied math and statistics courses and saw both areas as a way to work on real-world problems.

After receiving my Master’s degree, I returned to North Carolina and worked as a mathematician at the Research Triangle Institute (RTI). There, I was exposed to a large number of very talented and experienced statisticians, and after working for two years on a large national survey of medical care utilization, was advised by the vice-president, Dr. Daniel Horvitz, to pursue my doctoral degree. He was a significant role model for me as both a statistician and a very effective leader, and I promptly followed his career advice, returning to UNC for a PhD in Biostatistics. The School of Public Health provided a very rich environment for graduate studies and opened my eyes to all kinds of new ways a statistician could have an impact in the world.

2. Would you like to briefly tell us about your current job and your career path? We all know that you have had a very successful career in industry-academia-government. Would you like to describe your journey for us?

I returned to RTI while completing my doctoral dissertation and stayed there for about sixteen years. In the early years, I worked primarily on sample surveys and software development but migrated to clinical trial projects in the later years. RTI is a very diverse non-profit research center, and statisticians have opportunities to work in a variety of areas there. RTI also offered me my first management position.

One of my RTI projects involved a pharmaceutical trial, which piqued my interest in that area, so when an opportunity to work at a large contract research organization (CRO) came along, I decided to explore that path. I joined Quintiles as an associate director for biostatistics at their headquarters in North Carolina and worked there for 6 years, moving up to director, senior director and vice president. For the last two years, I was Vice-President of Biostatistics, overseeing over 150 statisticians and programmers across five offices in North America. When I began work at Quintiles, there were about 6,000 employees, and within a few years, the company grew to over 20,000 employees. It was an exciting time to be part of the company, and I learned a tremendous amount about drug development and global collaboration while there. It was also the time in my career where I received formal training in management and leadership, and with the growth the company was experiencing, I learned a lot about managing change. Dr. Dennis Gillings, former UNC Biostatistics faculty member and founder and CEO of Quintiles, was an amazing role model who emphasized the importance of management training and development for statisticians. I consider myself very lucky to have had exposure to such a dynamic leader at that point in my career.

One of the big challenges throughout my career has been learning how to split my time between management and technical work.

One of the big challenges throughout my career has been learning how to split my time between management and
technical work. The co-chair of my dissertation and life-long mentor, Prof. Gary Koch, who is still on the faculty at UNC and going strong at over seventy years of age, told me early on in my career that once I got into the management track, I should always try to stay technical, because the technical skills are the ones in the most demand. I think he was right and have passed this advice on to others. So, even as Vice-President, I stayed involved in a few projects with sponsors, primarily in anti-depression and cardiovascular drug development.

The more I learned about drug development, approval, and marketing, the more curious I became about the very early phases of drug discovery, so when an opportunity came along to join a start-up pharmaceutical company, I took it. I joined a relatively new company with only about thirty people as Vice President of Statistics and Data Management just as they were taking their first drug into phase 3. My primary responsibility was to build a statistics group from the ground up and oversee outsourcing of data management, but by far the most exciting part of the job was to play a role in the strategic management of the company’s portfolio. I stayed at the company for four years, overseeing a cystic fibrosis drug development program that included both non-clinical and clinical studies, but just as we began what turned out to be a successful phase 3 trial, another opportunity to learn and grow in an entirely different sector presented itself.

The University of North Carolina (UNC), twice my alma mater, houses the oldest, continuously funded NIH coordinating center, founded in 1972. The center director for many years had decided to step down, and I was asked to join the biostatistics faculty and head up the center. Now up until that time, I had pursued an industrial career and did not have an academic resume. The university, however, had just instituted a professor of the practice faculty track to attract people from industry with real-world experience, and I accepted a faculty position in the Department of Biostatistics as the first UNC professor of the practice. The coordinating center was in need of new funding, so I spent most of my time writing proposals and procuring funding from different sources, while also managing the 90+ faculty, staff, and students at the center. Two of the successful applications provided me an opportunity to serve as principal investigator for coordinating center projects, including the NHLBI-funded Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos. As faculty member, I was able to teach or co-teach three courses in distinct areas, clinical trials, statistical consulting, and a newly developed course in statistical leadership. All in all, I adapted to academic life reasonably well, due in large part to my chair and mentor, Dr. Michael Kosorok, and was proud of the success realized by the coordinating center since joining. At that point in my career, I thought I would stay in academia until retirement, but that was not to be.

In 2010, while attending the Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, I heard that Dr. Bob O’Neill, long-time director of biostatistics in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the FDA was going to step down. I remember saying to a colleague, “Now that’s a job to consider!” But at that time, I had no intentions of pursuing yet another career change. As principal investigator of some very exciting coordinating center projects, including the largest study of US Hispanics/Latinos to ever be funded by NIH, with baseline papers just starting to be published, leaving UNC held no appeal to me. Six months later, I got called about the FDA position.

It took several months to convince me that I could take on the FDA challenge. I have lived in Chapel Hill, NC since 1971, raised my two daughters there, and was not anxious to lose any ties with the place in which I ultimately wanted to retire. But somehow, with the help of family and friends, I figured out a way to live in both places and pursue yet another opportunity to learn and grow in an exciting environment for statisticians. I just finished my third year at FDA, and I really mean it when I say that this is it—I have run out of sectors within which to work! My career trajectory reflects the fact that I love work, I love new challenges, I’m always a little afraid of getting bored, and every time I’ve made a career change, it has been to learn something different, acquire new skills, and have an impact. All of these are attributes of the job opportunities that have been offered to me. And, when I am done working, I’d like to think that with each move, I was able to leave the workplace in better health than when I found it.

3. Which part of the work do you enjoy the most? I like every aspect of it. The technical component, i.e. using my statistical skills, is the fun part of the job.
I view leadership as a process as opposed to an innate quality. It is a process by which someone motivates and leads a group to accomplish something important.

I think one challenge for someone in my position is to stay current in a continuously changing and highly technical field. As office director with over 185 staff members supporting all therapeutic areas of drug development, I don’t have time to delve deeply into new statistical methodology, but I do need to have an awareness of current research and an understanding sufficient to make decisions about whether this research applies to our review work. I also need to be able to evaluate students coming out of graduate programs with much broader curricula than I experienced. Fortunately, I am surrounded by many talented people in the office who are active in statistical research and keep us current!

Another challenge is simply staying on top of everything. There’s so much going on in this office – so much I want to accomplish. I get a little of frustrated when things don’t happen quite as quickly as I think they should, and patience is not my strong suit! I am still learning about managing in the federal government, about how to be successful and make the office successful in this environment. At the same time, I need to spot the things that should be changed and try to make that happen. But juggling many balls without dropping any is always a challenge, no matter what job you have.

My motivation in this particular job is the belief that our children deserve better medicines than we had or than our parents had. There have been some truly miraculous drugs discovered in the recent past.

I am very grateful to the many statisticians in our office who have taken up leadership opportunities as well as to their supervisors for helping them acquire the skills to do so. A challenging but also exciting aspect about leadership at FDA is that our work has a huge impact on the public health. There is a lot at stake when making decisions about approving drugs. The leadership here takes that responsibility very seriously, and I find this very inspiring.

5. What keeps you motivated in your work? Conversely what are the challenges you face in your everyday life as a statistician?

policy and procedures. Leadership, as separate from management, is both the most challenging and the most rewarding, and one of its most rewarding aspects is mentorship. I have always enjoyed giving advice to students about possible career paths and try to steer them towards biostatistics whenever possible! I also like mentoring people on the job. The truly enjoyable part of any job I've had is getting together with a team of statisticians and other scientists and solving problems.

4. What are the qualities a statistician should have, in order to demonstrate leadership?

I view leadership as a process as opposed to an innate quality. It is a process by which someone motivates and leads a group to accomplish the common goal. As statisticians, we are involved in a highly technical field with very complex concepts, and we are often in a position where we have to communicate these concepts to non-statisticians. A good statistician lacking strong communication skills is not going to move easily into leadership. Effective leaders also have to be good listeners and consensus builders in order to move a group forward. All of these skills have to be learned and practiced, but they can be acquired. As statisticians at FDA, we have opportunities to lead multidisciplinary groups – review teams, methods working groups, program committees for workshop planning, etc. I am very grateful to the many statisticians in our office who have taken up leadership opportunities as well as to their supervisors for helping them acquire the skills to do so. A challenging but also exciting aspect about leadership at FDA is that our work has a huge impact on the public health. There is a lot at stake when making decisions about approving drugs. The leadership here takes that responsibility very seriously, and I find this very inspiring.

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A Discussion about Leadership, Challenges and Balance

BY SAYANTEE JANA

woman? Did you ever experience any biased behavior in the workplace? How did you handle such situations?

I feel very fortunate to have worked in gender-neutral environments, for the most part. I think working among scientists may have a little bit of an advantage in that they tend to be logical in evaluating skill sets, so getting people to recognize me for my work and keep gender out of the equation was not too difficult. That being said, I was educated in the sixties and seventies, and mathematics and statistics departments were not well-populated with women! I did not have many female role models in graduate school, and as a result, I did not consider an academic career, because I knew I wanted to have children and couldn’t imagine trying to get tenure while raising a family. Things are much different today, and academic careers are very attractive for people with families due to flexible work schedules. Working women everywhere have many more options, including on-site day care and telecommuting opportunities.

7. How do you balance between your professional and personal life? How do you handle all the stress around you, all the ups and downs in your life and career?

Work-life balance is a popular concept today, more so than when I began working, but I knew it was important. I had a couple of things working to my advantage. My husband worked in human resources and was able to maintain a reasonable schedule with little travel. My work hours were longer and always required travel. Having his support, especially when the children were young, was really wonderful. The other thing that helped was making family dinner a high priority whenever possible. Even with the pressure of a pending deadline that made it difficult to leave the office at the end of the day, and the children going in different directions for their after-school activities, we made every attempt to have dinner together as a family each evening. I felt that it was a kind of anchor for us. The food was not always memorable, but the conversation and sense of connection were. Throughout my working life, I made it a priority to be present at my children’s activities and to have non-working vacations — though they did accompany me to several JSM meetings! I do believe that establishing some family traditions—finding your anchors — and then setting aside time for them is essential for work-life balance. And if there are no children involved, then setting aside fixed times for non-work activities can help achieve that balance.

8. What is your advice to a young female statistician who wants to shape her future with a career in statistics?

I had the honor of speaking at my high school as a distinguished alumna a few years ago, and during my talk I asked the senior class to raise their hands if they wanted a career in medical research. A lot of hands went up, so I asked how many thought they had to go to medical school to realize that dream, and most of them raised their hands again. I then asked if they knew they could be very involved in medical research and have a rewarding career outside of the medical school route. Getting a doctoral degree in biostatistics opens doors to numerous job choices, including medical research opportunities. And, you can graduate with no debt! Funding opportunities abound—at least today. From my own experience, this career path can be very rewarding.

When given the opportunity, I also share stories about particular projects that seem to have made a real difference in the world. One of these is a 1980s study of post-traumatic stress disorder in Vietnam veterans that was instrumental in understanding the impact of this disorder and influential in setting policy about its treatment. Another is the exciting research ongoing at UNC to better understand risk factors and disease prevalence in US Hispanics/Latinos. Examples of drug discovery and development in areas of unmet medical needs are still others. Sharing career stories is an easy way to advertise the work we do and helps students realize that statistics is a fast-moving field with many dimensions. If you have good math skills and want to make a difference, it’s a career option worth looking into!

Dr. LaVange with newsletter editor Elena Rantou

Dr. Lisa LaVange is the Director of the Office of Biostatistics, at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Sayantee Jana is a Ph.D. student at the Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics—McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, CA
The Department of Biostatistics in the School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is pleased to request nominations for the Fourteenth Annual Janet L. Norwood Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Woman in the Statistical Sciences. The award will be conferred on Wed 9/9/2015. The award recipient will be invited to deliver a lecture at the UAB award ceremony, and will receive all expenses, the award, and a $5,000 prize. Acceptance of the award is conditional on delivering the lecture at UAB on 9/9/2015.

Eligible individuals are women who have completed their terminal degree, have made extraordinary contributions and have an outstanding record of service to the statistical sciences, with an emphasis on both their own scholarship and on teaching and leadership of the field in general and of women in particular and who, if selected, are willing to deliver a lecture at the award ceremony. For additional details about the award, please visit our website at http://www.soph.uab.edu/awards/norwoodaward.

How to nominate: Please send a full curriculum vitae accompanied by a letter of not more than two pages in length describing the nature of the candidate's contributions. Contributions may be in the area of development and evaluation of statistical methods, teaching of statistics, application of statistics, or any other activity that can arguably be said to have advanced the field of statistical science. Self-nominations are acceptable.

Please send nominations to:
David B. Allison, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor, Quetelet Endowed Professor of Public Health, Associate Dean for Science; Director, Office of Energetics; Director, Nutrition Obesity Research Center
dallison@uab.edu
Deadline for receipt of nominations is Fri 6/26/2015. Electronic submissions of nominations are encouraged. The winner will be announced by Mon 7/6/2015.

Previous Recipients

3. (2004) Dr. Alice S. Whittemore: Prof & Co-Chair, Health Research & Policy, Stanford
9. (2010) Dr. L. Adrienne Cupples: Prof, Biostatistics & Epidemiology, Boston University
10. (2011) Dr. Lynne Billard: University Prof, University of Georgia
13. (2014) Dr. Judith D. Singer: Senior Vice Provost, Faculty Development & Diversity, James Bryant Conant Prof, Education, Harvard University
MAILBAG/NEWSBRIEFS—BY JILL MONTAQUILA

About This Column
The Mailbag/Newsbriefs Column provides a means of sharing news items with Caucus members. Mailbag items are generally personal news items—updates on members who have recently taken new jobs, received promotions, published articles or books, etc.

Newsbriefs are brief summaries of noteworthy news items from newspapers, magazines, or websites.

As Features Editor, I collect both types of items and prepare them for the Caucus newsletter. If you have good news to share, or come across an article or website that you think would be of interest to the Caucus membership, please email these submissions to me at jillmontaquila@westat.com.

Congratulation on Book Publication!

Congratulations to Caucus member Margot Tollefson, owner of Vanward Statistics, on her publication last year of the book *R Quick Syntax Reference!* The publisher is Apress, New York.

Women Flocking to Statistics

The article “Women flocking to statistics, the newly hot, high-tech field of data science” (by Brigid Schulte, published by the *Washington Post*, December 19, 2014; available at [http://wapo.st/16A4MMo](http://wapo.st/16A4MMo)) contrasted statistics with other science and technology fields. The article noted the high demand for statisticians in the workforce, and said that, “More than 40 percent of degrees in statistics go to women, and they make up 40 percent of the statistics department faculty poised to move into tenured positions.” The article noted the ASA’s efforts to include women and place them in leadership roles, and mentioned the Women in Statistics Conference held last year. The article also highlighted historical and cultural factors that have set women’s participation in statistics apart from other data science fields.

In Memoriam: Janet L. Norwood

The article “Janet L. Norwood, former Bureau of Labor Statistics Commissioner, dies” (by Emily Langer, published by the *Washington Post*, March 31, 2015; available at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/janet-l-norwood-former-bureau-of-labor-statistics-commissioner-dies/2015/03/31/1ad007f2-d6ea-11e4-ba28-f2a685dc7f89_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/janet-l-norwood-former-bureau-of-labor-statistics-commissioner-dies/2015/03/31/1ad007f2-d6ea-11e4-ba28-f2a685dc7f89_story.html)) gives details of Dr. Norwood’s life and her tenure as Commissioner of the BLS. In addition to her role as the first woman to serve as BLS Commission-

2015 Election of Officers

Look for a ballot in June. We encourage everyone to take a part in selecting the President-Elect, Secretary and Program Committee members

JSM 2015 Caucus Events

We have requested times for a round-table breakfast and a business meeting/reception. Final times should be available as on June 1st. Please also plan to attend the sessions that we are sponsoring or cosponsoring if you can fit it in your schedule.

JSM 2015 Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Sessions:

Primary Sponsor: Implicit Bias: What Statisticians Need to Know and Do; Sun, 8/9, 2:00 - 3:50PM
Co-sponsor: Leadership and Women in Statistics; Mon, 8/10, 2:00 - 3:50PM
Co-sponsor: Career Insights from Women in Leadership; Tue, 8/11, 2:00 - 3:50PM
OBITUARY— JANET NORWOOD (1923 —2015)
By Lynne Billard

Janet Norwood died March 27, 2015 at the age of 91. Much has been written about her, and her obituaries talked about her being the first woman Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), of her appointment as Commissioner by three administrations, and her persistent stance of allowing data speak for themselves without letting biases, political or scientific, be a part of the equation whenever, wherever, she was called upon to explain them. These achievements have been oft told and will continue to grace our pages as time goes on. Therefore, instead, my focus herein will be on some of my personal reflections in my own recollections and interactions with her.

My first strong memory of Janet goes back to the presidential campaign of 1980, Fall. The day before, BLS had announced some particular statistic, with the addendum that the method used to calculate that statistic had been changed. There was a huge uproar with accusations of political interference and manipulation to influence the fast approaching presidential elections. The next night, on the national nightly news, there was Janet calmly explaining (the whatevers) and putting everything in perspective (including the crucial fact that the decisions regarding these particular changes were made ons before). Such was her clarity, more importantly such was the respect she garnered from both Republicans and Democrats, the uproar died out over night.

The political campaigns continued but those statistics were not a part of the rhetoric. This is a story I always tell my students—about the importance of being impartial, of maintaining unvarnished integrity, etc.—so that our work as statisticians can be fully trusted. In my discussions with Janet on this event, she says BLS learned a lot from it, including the importance of being cognizant of the timing effects of new policy.

One lesser known attribute is that Janet worked assiduously behind the scenes to promote women in the workforce. In a conversation with her at the 1987 International Statistical Institute (ISI) meeting, we talked about how women were under-valued, how they had to be many times better to be seen as equal to men (while we both agreed the downward trend of that multiplier factor was the right direction, she thought the multiplier was still higher than I did; and today in 2015, that factor is not yet one as there is not yet parity). While I do not specifically recall her saying her mantra “women must take the opportunities that come to them”, I do know that when the subject of my being nominated for the ballot for the new/first ISI Council arose, it was clear she thought that I should allow my name to go forward. Years later, it occurred to me that maybe it was Janet herself who had nominated me! At that point, if asked, I would have thought Janet barely knew me!

Fast forward to the mid-1990’s, and the Census 2000 and its attendant controversies. By now, I was well aware of the high regard in which Janet was held by “both sides of the aisle’. Therefore, it was a very conscious decision to ask Janet to Chair an ASA Blue Ribbon Panel on the role of sampling in the census. That was 1996. Then in 1997, she played a key role in tracking me down (at the ASA office in Alexandria, Virginia) to be sure that a planned letter on statistical aspects of the census would reach the members of Congress and the White House in time (This event is described in some detail as part of ASA’s 175th Anniversary Celebration in a Presidents and Executive Directors roundtable being published in the May 2015 issue of The American Statistician, q.v.) The coup de grace came in November 1997. I had been approached to serve on the Secretary of Commerce’s Census Advisory Board. However, I quickly demurred suggesting others who I thought would be better suited. We went back and forth many times, I with versions of “I’m not a sampling expert”, “I’m not (this) or (that)”, they with “that is not the point”, “we want you!”, back and forth, ... Of course, I kept suggesting Janet be appointed instead. Eventually I agreed, only to learn that their next move was to have Janet phone me to convince me to serve!! Again, Janet was working, in this case for me, but as she did so many times for so many others, albeit unknowingly to them. Incidentally, that opportunity was one of the most interesting things I ever did professionally. One can hear Janet’s “Don’t let opportunities pass you by!”

My last conversation with Janet was at the 2011 Janet Norwood Award’s ceremony. We recalled many incidents from the years, including those mentioned here. While I did know about her role for the Census Advisory Committee, she confirmed some others. As I thanked her for all that she had done for me, I speculated that there were many other occasions when she was the impetus behind other steps in my career. Her smile and imperceptible nodding of her head - a gesture so familiar to those who knew her - told me that “Yes, she had” – not just for me, but for many of us. Thank you Janet. Your influence will last forever!
CAUCUS FOR WOMEN IN STATISTICS
2015 MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL/CONTRIBUTIONS FORM

This form is to be used for the 2015 membership year (1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015). For renewals, only changes need to be indicated.

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___ Write an article for the newsletter
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___ Other ideas:

___ At JSM, ENAR, or involve the Caucus with other conferences:

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   7732 Rydal Terrace
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2. Pay on PayPal at http://caucusforwomeninstatistics.wordpress.com/join/ and email this filled out form to Anna Nevius (nevius@comcast.net).
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