

SURVEY RESEARCH

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

The John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship Fund for Investing in Survey Research

Don A. Dillman

Washington State University



The John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established by the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO) to support travel of staff members of academic survey organizations to the annual meetings of the American As-

sociation for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) and/or the International Field Directors and Technologies Conference (IFD&TC).

As a founding member of AASRO, and its president at the time of his death on May 6, 2012, John was passionate about improving the skills and commitment of staff members of academic survey research organizations. He viewed these organizations as a critical aspect of our nation's infrastructure for conducting and reporting quality survey research.

John served as Director of one of AASRO's member organizations, the Washington State University Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC), for 16 years (1996-2012), having first joined the SESRC staff in 1981 as its Assistant Director. He quickly became an advocate for regularly sending SESRC staff, some of whom had little background in survey

methods, to the IFD&FTC and AAPOR conferences. He saw participation in these conferences as important investments in the future of the SESRC. His philosophy was simple—the more staff understand survey design, data collection, why people participate, and how results get reported—and the more connections they can build with staff of other academic survey centers, the better our work will become.

John's foresight in defining staff development as a centerpiece for growth and development of the SESRC was critical to its growth and contributions to his University and its service to the region and nation. I see the John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship Fund as an opportunity to support a similar philosophy of investment in academic survey research organizations throughout the U.S. and hope that you will consider contributing to its success in supporting the professional development of the nation's survey professionals. I hope you'll join me in providing that support.

Your contribution to the John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship Fund may be sent to Stephanie Kane, AASRO Treasurer, Social Science Research Unit, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 444290 Moscow, ID 83844-4290. Questions may be addressed to Stephanie at (208) 885-5849 or atskane@uidaho.edu

Indiana's John M. Kennedy Honored with AASRO's First Achievement Award



John M. Kennedy, emeritus senior researcher and former long-time Director of the Indiana University Center for Survey Research, received the first ever Achievement Award from the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO). The award will henceforth be known as the John M. Kennedy Achievement Award and acknowledges Kennedy's decades of service toward supporting academic survey research.

Kennedy directed the IU Center for Survey Research for 25 years, from 1987 to early 2012. The CSR provides survey services to university faculty, government agencies, media, and nonprofit organizations. Under Kennedy's leadership, the center helped to launch the widely cited National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), an Internet and mail survey of college and university undergraduates at more than 750 U.S. and Canadian schools. NSSE, which began in 1999, now covers a sample of more than 2 million students. The CSR also carries out the Law School Survey of Student Engagement, in which more than 80 law schools participate.

The AASRO award also honors Kennedy's contributions to the broader community of academic survey centers. In 1995, Kennedy organized the first of a long series of annual, informal meetings of academic survey directors, which eventually led to the creation of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations. Today, AASRO is an association of over 60 academic survey research organizations, representing survey organizations

from both private and public universities across the United States and Canada. AASRO's mission is to support and promote excellence in survey research conducted in academic settings. Since the organization formed in 2008, Kennedy served on the steering committee and then in a presidency role on the first executive committee.

In 2008, Kennedy also served as the first editor of the online journal *Survey Practice*, which provides practical information that supports the production of surveys, the application and outcomes of survey methods research, and documents the changing conditions that impact survey quality and survey organizations. Under Kennedy's guidance, *Survey Practice* has become a go-to resource for survey practitioners.

"John's tireless service to the research survey profession is outstanding," says Thomas Guterbock, chair of the AASRO Achievement Award committee and past president of the AASRO. "Few people can claim to have made such important contributions to our field in such a variety of ways. We are so pleased to honor John as the first recipient of the AASRO Achievement Award."

Citing "the lasting impact that John leaves on the academic survey research community and AASRO," Yasamin Miller, past AASRO president, announced that "the AASRO Achievement Award will henceforth be named the John M. Kennedy Achievement Award."



AASRO Year in Review

*Yasamin Miller
Cornell University*

Formed in May 2008, the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations is entering its fifth year. In 2011, then-president Thomas Guterbock (Director of the CSR, University of Virginia) developed an AASRO Strategic Plan to help guide AASRO through to 2014. Using this plan as a basis, members at the 2011 annual meeting in Pullman,

Washington, identified the following plan areas as priorities in 2011:

1. Developing an AASRO award
2. Developing an external peer review system or template
3. Working towards a not-for-profit 501(c)3 status and
4. Establishing our own independent Web site

Under the enthusiastic leadership of Tom, the Awards Committee presented our first-ever AASRO Achievement Award, named after John Kennedy during our annual meeting in Athens, Georgia, in March. The award honors an academic survey researcher (individual, group or organization) that has demonstrated one or more of the following criteria:

- meritorious service or help to AASRO or to its member organizations;
- accomplished leadership in public opinion research that promotes the value of survey research, enhances public understanding of survey research, fosters advances in survey research methods as a science, improves delivery of survey services, or otherwise promotes quality in survey and public opinion data collection;
- advancement or innovation in developing or improving the capabilities of an academic survey research organization (for example, improving client interactions, respondent experience, project management, staff training, quality of survey data collection, fiscal or personnel management); or
- promoting or improving the understanding, within their own institutions, of survey research conducted by academic survey research organizations.

Aptly, the first-ever John Kennedy AASRO Achievement Award was presented to John Kennedy. Equally challenging and extremely relevant to the health and viability of our collective organizations is the need to give members access to external entities with expertise to provide unbiased evaluations of our center operations. The Mentoring and Peer Review Committee, under the direction of Susan Willis-Walton (Director of Virginia Tech's Center for Survey Research) continues to build upon the work that began in 2009 with a center capacity rubric developed by Martha Van Haitsma (Co-director of the University of Chicago's Survey Lab, who has devoted a tremendous amount of time to this effort) and modified with input from many of our members. Utilizing this rubric and augmenting it with additional observations and materials as needed, Susan

Willis-Walton and Tom Guterbock successfully completed an external review for Louisiana State University Public Policy Research Lab. Based on their overall experience with this review, the Mentoring and Peer Review Committee developed a template for a formal AASRO Peer Review process. AASRO now offers these peer reviews as a service to member organizations. This year, there are four member organizations who have requested peer reviews, which will be conducted over the next few months.

As any organization grows, the logistics of running it become a challenge. It became clear to us that AASRO needed to be structured in such a way that operations could be rotated among members as needed. To free our accounts from the bureaucracy of any one single institution and reduce the paperwork required to shift the account with each newly elected treasurer, we have initiated the process of incorporation. We also are in the process of applying for 501(c)3 status (these efforts are being led by Martha Van Haitsma and now with the assistance of Stephanie Kane).

Equally important for our organization is to have an independent Web site that transcends members and is able to be managed and updated by the Executive Committee. To this end, it was imperative that AASRO move away from the Cornell University hosted Web site to its own. Our Communications Coordinator Mary Ellen Colten (Director of the Center for Survey Research, University of Massachusetts Boston) with the Web site Committee, under the generous and talented efforts of John Edwards (Director of the Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University), with the outstanding Web programming expertise of Sean Galey (also of Mississippi State University) have accomplished exactly that. I'm proud to say that we are now running on our own independent Web site (www.aassro.org), one that can be maintained by our own members and does not rely on any one institution for its maintenance. The transition to the new site was seamless (hence more credit to John and Sean).

During this busy year, AASRO has remained focused and effective in other areas as well. The AASRO annual survey was administered this year through Wyoming's Survey and Analysis Center (University of Wyoming) under the direction of Survey Research Manager Bistra Anatchkova (as

head of AASRO's Member Survey and Data Sharing Committee). Many improvements to the survey instrument itself made it easier for respondents to record their information. An Excel template (developed by Tom Guterbock) also was shared with members in order to facilitate the reporting of information by members and nonmembers. Survey results were presented at the annual member meeting in March 2012.

Ronald Langley, Director of the University of Kentucky Survey Research Center, graciously assumed the role of the chair of the Human Subjects and Compliance Committee midterm as Beth-Ellen Pennell (University of Michigan) has acquired new responsibilities. Ron attended the PRIM&R and COSSA meetings, representing AASRO at both. In addition, under Ron's careful and thoughtful leadership, the committee crafted an extremely well thought out response to the proposed Common Rules changes. The document he submitted entitled "Responses of The Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations To the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making Regarding the HHS Proposal to Improve Rules Protecting Human Research Subjects, October 2011" can be found on the AASRO Web site. This is an example of AASRO's exemplary presence on the national level and its importance in helping guide policy.

In an attempt to provide additional benefits of AASRO membership, we were able to negotiate an AASRO member discount with one phone survey software vendor and will continue to try to negotiate other discounts for AASRO members with other vendors.

Our annual meeting in Athens, Georgia, hosted by Jim Bason, was a great success. Over 50 members were in attendance.

The new year for AASRO started with the sad and untimely passing of our incoming president John Tarnai of Washington State University. Our Vice President, Larry Hembroff of Michigan State University very quickly stepped in and assumed the full duties of the President, and one of his first significant acts was establishing the John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship. The events of the past few weeks has again reminded me of the incredible force that is AASRO. The individuals that make up our collective organizations have demonstrated time and time again their dedication to our profession and

their dedication to one another. It has been a truly humbling and transformative experience to have had the honor to have served as its president.



CURRENT RESEARCH

Further information on the studies described in this section should be obtained from the organizations conducting the studies at the addresses given at the beginning of each organization's listing. Neither Survey Research nor the Survey Research Laboratory can provide this information. Study summaries are accepted by Survey Research with the understanding that additional information can be released to others.

ILLINOIS

National Opinion Research Center (NORC) University of Chicago

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Kenya Urban Program (KUP) Baseline Study.

The KUP is supporting a variety of initiatives to improve the governance of and service delivery in 15 municipalities nationwide. The World Bank has contracted NORC to carry out quantitative and qualitative data collection in the 15 municipalities to assess the current living conditions and service delivery and to support an eventual evaluation of the program. NORC research staff is adapting World Bank data collection instruments to carry out CAPI interviews among a sample of 14,600 households in the 15 cities in 2012. *Principal Investigator:* Clifford Zinnes, *Project Director:* Sarah Hughes.

Birth Cohort Evaluation to Advance Screening and Testing for Hepatitis C. Funded by the CDC Foundation, this project estimates the effectiveness and cost of a hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening strategy that targets all individuals in the birth cohort born between 1945 and 1965 as compared with the current risk-based HCV screening approach. The overall goal of the project is to estimate the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the birth-cohort screening as compared to the risk-based screening. *Principal Investigator and Project Director:* David Rein.

Biodemography of Exceptional Longevity in the U.S. This project investigates why some people manage to survive to extreme old age (100+ years) and the biological and social correlates of exceptional longevity with particular emphasis on the early-life events and conditions. *Principal Investigators:* Leonid Gavrilov and Natalia Gavrilova.

Evaluating Public Health Financing Programs. With the support of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation of the Dept. of Health and Human Services, NORC will undertake a series of site visits to understand how federal, state, and local funding supports public health services. One aspect of the project will be to explore how the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and other recent changes in federal law may influence public health financials. The project also will identify policy options that will optimize the benefits of government investments in public health. *Project Director:* Michael Meit.

Bureau of Primary Health Care Program Cost Analysis. This project assesses how the community health center program relates to overall health care costs and utilization for vulnerable populations in the U.S. It also allows us to assess the impact of new funding to health centers supported through the American Recovery and Reconstruction Act of 2009. NORC and Univ. of Chicago staff along with the COTR at HRSA will develop the project work plan and update the plan as needed during the project. The project team will design and execute research involving Medicaid administrative data and in designing and executing qualitative aspects of this project, including up front discussions with thought leaders and case studies to be conducted near the end of the project. *Project Director:* Adil Moiduddin.

Success Study of the Horatio Alger Association (HAA) Scholarship Program. The HAA Scholarship program is a national effort that awards financial scholarships and provides mentoring to at-risk students who have experienced different types of adversity while still demonstrating strong academic potential. NORC is currently conducting Phase 1 of the Success Study of the program to understand the factors associated with students' abilities to overcome adversity. *Principal Investigator and Project Director:* Gregory Wolniak.

The National Survey of Early Care and Education. The NORC project team, including

partners at Chapin Hall and other organizations, has launched a massive data collection effort for this study, which went into the field at the beginning of 2012. The purpose is to better understand the relationship between the early care and education needs of families with young children and the nonparental care available to them. To this end, data are collected from five major groups comprising the supply of and demand for child care: three types of care providers (center-based, formal home-based, informal home-based), households with young children, and the workforce of individuals in centers. Findings will inform policies aimed at families and children and initiatives to support early childhood programs and practitioners. The survey is sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation within the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. *Project Director:* Rupa Datta.

Lead in Soil Immobilization Pilot. NORC is subcontracting with a small Chicago business on a Small Business Technology Transfer grant from the NIH National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences. The project objective is to reduce the risk of lead poisoning in children by developing an inexpensive commercially viable treatment that permanently reduces soluble (bioavailable) lead levels in soil. NORC's small business partner is leading with the benchscale testing of an innovative soil treatment, while NORC is assessing stakeholder lead-in-soil awareness, interest in lead remediation, cost, and perceived barriers to use. The primary outcome of the project will be the testing of an effective *in situ* treatment product, along with potentially increased user-interest among stakeholders. *Project Directors:* Mary Hess and Doug Humberger.

**Survey Research Laboratory (SRL)
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Chicago Endothelial Function (CHEFS) Study. Funded by NIH, this study was designed to determine the association between loneliness and total peripheral resistance (TPR), endothelial function, oxidative stress, and neuroendocrine activity in respondents. SRL was contracted to recruit participants for in-person interviews.

Potential respondents were recruited via an ad placed on Craigslist and via telephone calls to listed sample. The first year of data collection extended from late 2009 through most of 2010 and resulted in 213 study candidates, while Year 2 data collection (2011) resulted in 219 candidates. *Principal Investigator*: Louise Hawkley (Univ. of Chicago), *Project Coordinators*: Kara Pennoyer and Jennifer Parsons.

Long-Term Housing Survey. Funding from the MacArthur Foundation made possible these follow-up interviews with respondents to two housing initiatives: the HOPE VI Panel Study, which monitored outcomes for residents from Chicago's Wells/Madden Park, and the evaluation of the Chicago Family Case Management Demonstration, a family-based intensive case management intervention in the Madden/Wells and Dearborn housing projects. Following tracking phone calls and the mailing of a postcard, SRL conducted face-to-face interviews with 378 of the 486 respondents in the initial sample. Data collection extended from June 2011 through most of January 2012. *Principal Investigator*: Susan Popkin (The Urban Institute), *Project Coordinator*: Jessica Hyink.

Pedestrian Safety at Railroad Crossings. The purpose of this study is to evaluate active and passive warning signs at highway-rail and pathway-rail grade crossings around northeastern Illinois. Through examination of the experiences of pedestrians and bicyclists at rail crossings, the investigators will attempt to enumerate the adequacy and effectiveness of existing signs, markings, and/or flashing lights in use at highway-rail and pathway-rail grade crossings. Ten sites were chosen from a screening of all pathway-rail and highway-rail crossings ($n = 1,665$) for this study. A total of 312 questionnaires were completed by pathway-rail and highway-rail users between October 27 and December 31, 2011. *Principal Investigators*: Paul Metaxatos and P. S. Sriraj (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), *Project Coordinator*: Jessica Hyink.

Illinois Small Business Survey. This project involved a telephone survey and focus groups and was funded by the Illinois Dept. of Insurance (with federal funding under Health Reform). SRL interviewed 607 small business owners/senior executives of small businesses throughout Illinois about their current health coverage situation and their expectations for and needs from the proposed Illinois Health Exchange. *Principal Investigator*: Jonathan

Dopkeen (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), *Project Coordinator*: Isabel Farrar.

UIC Priorities Study. In June, SRL conducted a Web survey on behalf of the UIC Chancellor's Office to provide input from the UIC community for the July Board of Trustees meeting. The questionnaire, which asked respondents what they feel should be the top priorities for UIC, was completed by 5,164 faculty, staff, and students. *Project Coordinator*: Isabel Farrar.

IOWA

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Family and Community Health Study (FACHS).

This NIH-funded longitudinal study is conducted in collaboration with the Center for Family Research at the Univ. of Georgia. The study began in 1997 and follows a core group of nearly 900 African-American families composed of a focal adolescent (approximately 10 years old when the study began), his/her primary and secondary caregivers, and if applicable, an older sibling. These families were originally located in Iowa and Georgia; participants now live in more than 30 states. As the young people have aged into adulthood, the study has expanded to include the young adults' best friends and romantic partners. 2010–2011 data collection involved 2,693 interviews. This most recent wave of the FACHS study utilized CAPI interviews with an ACASI component; height, weight, and blood pressure readings; and genetic data for young adults and their primary caregivers. The in-person interviews lasted 2–3 hours and covered a range of health, social, and behavioral topics. One-hour telephone interviews, covering similar topics to the in-person interviews, were conducted with best friends, romantic partners, and sibling participants. Over the years, the study also has used PAPI, GPS, and school and teacher data; audio recordings; and video observation data. *Project Coordinator*: Jennifer Ensley-Gorshe.

Agriculture, Environment, and Recreation in Iowa. A mail survey was done in winter of 2011–2012 with 2,400 residents of Iowa about multi-ob-

jective agriculture. The survey focused on people's perceptions, knowledge, and opinions about social and environmental impacts related to agriculture, tourism, and rural recreation. The address-based sample was divided into two geographic areas: a 4-county region comprising most of a central Iowa watershed and the remaining 95 counties of Iowa, with rural-urban representation. *Project Coordinator:* Janice Larson.

MICHIGAN

Survey Research Center (SRC) Institute for Social Research University of Michigan

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Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ). The goal of this project is to evaluate the HCZ, an intervention that has the potential to alleviate the racial achievement gap in education. SRC will conduct 90-minute face-to-face interviews with approximately 400 youths who entered the lottery for entrance into the HCZ charter school at the beginning of their 6th grade year in either 2005 or 2006. The sample includes youth admitted into the Promise Academy and those who were not. Data collection consists of an interviewer-administered questionnaire, a set of behavioral risk measures using ACASI, and an assessment of math and reading skills. The project will provide SRC with an opportunity to build capacity to track and conduct interviews with urban youth. *Principal Investigators:* Roland Fryer (Harvard Ed-Labs) and Robin Jacob (Education and Well-Being), *Survey Director:* Karin Schneider.

Responding to Surveys on Mobile Multimodal Devices. The Univ. of Michigan and the New School for Social Research have collaborated on the NSF-funded Responding to Surveys project, which investigates how survey participation, completion, data quality, and respondent satisfaction are affected when respondents answer surveys via mobile phones with multimedia capabilities (iPhones). 1,200 interviews will be administered in one of four modes: human-voice interviews, human-text (SMS) interviews, automated-voice interviews (speech IVR), and automated-text (SMS) interviews. Participants screen in via a Web-based questionnaire, which verifies that they are iPhone users by send-

ing a text message to their phone. If eligible, they are contacted in one of the four modes to complete an interview; for some, respondents have the option to answer in a different mode than that in which they were contacted. Post interview, the participant receives a text message containing a link to a short Web survey about their interview experience, then a text message with a \$20 iTunes gift code. This study will increase understanding of how the timing and visual record of SMS text affect data quality, the impact of a potentially distracting and nonprivate environment on disclosure of sensitive information, and the impact of the physical environment on the quality of answers more generally. *Principal Investigators:* Frederick Conrad (SRC) and Michael Schober (New School), *Project Manager:* Andrew Hupp.

Understanding Social Disparities in Health and Aging: The 25th Anniversary of the Americans' Changing Lives Study (ACL). ACL is the oldest ongoing nationally representative longitudinal study of how social, psychological, and behavioral factors, medical care, and environmental exposure impact the way health changes with age over the adult life course. The panel study began in 1986 with adults age 25 and older, oversampling African Americans and people age 60 and over. Participants were interviewed again in 1989, 1994, 2001/02, and NIH's National Institute of Aging has funded the fifth wave of ACL. Nearly 1,800 of the original respondents remained eligible to complete a 70-minute telephone interview through April of 2012. *Principal Investigators:* James House & Sarah Burgard (ISR), *Survey Director:* Cheryl Wiese.

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Climate Change Adaptation Survey. For The Nature Conservancy in Michigan, OSR recently completed a Web-based survey of environmental policy makers, planners, and researchers in the Great Lakes basins of the U.S. and Canada. The focus is their understanding of climate change and the extent to which they currently are incorporating climate change adaptation strategies into their current work. A total of 564 individuals responded of the 1,144 individuals in the sample. *Project Manager:* Karen Clark.

Algebra Curriculum Survey. After several months of development and piloting, OSR is beginning an NSF-funded Web-based survey on algebra requirements, pressures for change, goals, and implementation strategies. Curriculum directors in a stratified random sample of more than 1,300 school districts nationwide are the targeted respondents. *Co-principal Investigators:* B. Herbel-Eisenmann and M. Steele (MSU's College of Education) and J. Remillard (Univ. of Pennsylvania), *Project Manager:* Karen Clark.

The Effectiveness of Robotic vs. Standard Prostatectomy for Prostate Cancer. OSR has nearly completed baseline interviews with a panel of more than 600 prostate cancer patients who elected either an open prostatectomy or a robot-assisted laparoscopic procedure for their cancers. Accrual began at clinical sites nationwide nearly two years ago. The NIH-funded study involves additional interviews at 2-, 6-, 12- and 18-months post-treatment and then annually; it focuses on the relative cost-effectiveness of robotic vs. open surgery. *Principal Investigator:* Martin Sanda (Harvard/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center), *Project Manager:* Jill Hardy.

BRFS of Asian and Hispanic Adults in Michigan. For the Michigan Dept. of Community Health, OSR is conducting Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys of the adult Asian American and Hispanic/Latino residents of Michigan. Roughly 400 interviews will be conducted with adults from each group. Spanish-language interviewing will be conducted as needed. These are intended as supplements to the other 10,000 cross-sectional BRFS interviews OSR is conducting in 2012. *Project Manager:* Debra Rusz.

NORTH CAROLINA

RTI International

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The Atlantic Coast Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). APAIS is conducted for NOAA at public marine fishing access points to collect individual catch data, including species identification, total number of each species, and length and weight measurements of individual fishes, as well as some angler-specific information about the fishing

trip and the angler's fishing behavior. The interviews are conducted in person by trained field staff in 13 states from GA to ME. *Project Director:* Sue Pedrazzani.

Computer Audio-Recorded Interviewing Research. RTI is creating an enterprise-wide Web system for the Census Bureau to manage interviewers' performance, data quality, and behavior coding studies for questionnaire development. One field test was conducted for the American Community Survey Content Test and a second began in May of 2012 for the Redesigned Survey of Income and Program Participation. RTI's computing and survey staff collaborate with Census Bureau teams to design the system, define requirements, implement, test, install and document the product. *Project Director:* Rita Thissen.

PENNSYLVANIA

Survey Research Center (SRC)

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Social Skills Improvement System Classwide Intervention Program (SSIS-CIP). SRC is involved in a multiyear project to assist with assessment of the SSIS-CIP. Implemented in many schools, educators and parents hope it will improve social skills and reduce problem behaviors that interfere with learning. This 4-year award from the Institute of Education Sciences will allow an examination of the efficacy of this intervention program. The assessment project is ambitious: the investigators planned the project in two locations in Pennsylvania (Bangor and Erie) involving 1,500 1st and 2nd graders and their teachers. Experienced field interviewers travel to Bangor and Erie and, in coordination with the participating schools, administer a series of questionnaires to the children—half of whom are in classrooms randomly selected to participate in the program, while others serve as the control group. Some involve traditional PAPI booklets; others are better suited to be completed on SRC's Ruggid laptops using Mi-fi connectivity. These laptops allow students to put on headphones and listen to questions and then answer using the mouse or keyboard. An additional part of the assessment involves detailed observation of teachers as they implemented the Social Skill

Improvement curriculum in their classrooms, with the results of the observations entered remotely to SRC's computer servers in University Park through a Web-based data collection system. The finely tuned customization of the assessment means that each kind of assessment data could be collected in the most accurate and efficient manner. Data collection will continue following the youth through a total of three data points. *Principal Investigators:* James DiPerna and Puiwa Lei (Penn State).

First Baby Study (FBS). The FBS is a longitudinal study of 3,003 first-time mothers that began in 2008. Funded by NICHD, it is a seven-year study of family growth; the study began with baseline phone interviews of expectant women in Pennsylvania and has been following up with additional phone interviews every six months. Approximately 15,000 interviews (about 65% of total) had been completed as of April 2012. In 2012, the study made a significant change in the modes of data collection offered: in order to make funding go further, participants began to be offered the option to complete the questionnaire over the Web. The length of the questionnaire combined with the subject matter made this transition attractive to many respondents. Data collection will conclude in late 2014.

TEXAS

Center for Community Research & Development (CCRD) Baylor University

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Waco-Area Survey. In order to assess community views on particular health-related issues and compare a variety of medical services, CCRD doctoral students conducted a telephone survey of residents in Waco and surrounding counties. A total of 607 adult residents completed the survey. Research continues with a survey formulated by center staff to assess the views and opinions of Waco residents on a variety of community-related issues.

VIRGINIA

Center for Survey Research University of Virginia

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Jefferson Area Community Survey (JACS). In January 2012, the CSR concluded its inaugural JACS, a recurring omnibus telephone survey of 1,000+ randomly selected adults living in one independent city (Charlottesville) and its five surrounding counties in central Virginia. The JACS used a triple-frame sample design, combining a landline-based RDD sample, a sample of directory-listed landline households, and an RDD sample of cell-phone numbers from the region. Designed to offer area nonprofit groups, government agencies, and academic researchers a cost-effective way to gather regional information from a representative sample of area residents, the JACS included questions on topics ranging from a hotly contested Virginia Senate seat to regional health care access and potential changes in local traffic patterns in its inaugural edition. The second JACS is scheduled for September 2012. *Principal Investigator:* Thomas Guterbock, *Project Coordinator:* Peter Furia.

WASHINGTON

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Factors Influencing Freight Routing on Washington State Highways. From December 2010 through March 2011, a sample of 2,245 eligible businesses in Washington State were contacted to help state officials understand the freight routing process and factors that influence specific routing choices for freight dependent businesses operating in Washington State. The mixed-mode survey yielded 725 telephone completes and 200 Web completes for an overall 41% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Dan Vakoch.

Economic Impact of Truck Congestion on Washington State. From December 2010 through March 2011, a sample of 4,081 eligible businesses in Washington State were contacted to help state officials understand the economic impacts of traffic congestion and traffic delays for freight dependent businesses operating in Washington State. The mixed-mode survey yielded 746 telephone completes and 465 Web completes for an overall 30% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Dan Vakoch.

Environmental Behavior Index. In January through March 2011, SESRC conducted a telephone and Web survey of 9,183 eligible households in King County, WA, for the King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks to learn more about household environmental behaviors by using 21 key environmental behavior measures. A total of 1,816 (1,209 phone, 607 Web) interviews were completed for a 20% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* John Tarnai, *Study Director:* Tim Faiella.

Pest Management Practices in Pear Orchards. The WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center sponsored a mixed-mode mail/Internet survey of pear orchard owners, managers, and lessees in Oregon and Washington to learn about pest management practices used in western pear orchard systems. The survey was conducted in March and April 2011. Of 962 eligible orchards contacted, 307 completed by mail and 28 completed by Web for an overall response rate of 35%. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Yi-Jen Wang.

Production, Marketing, and Advocacy Information Needs of Organic Farmers. In spring 2011, a nationwide random sample of organic farms was contacted for a mixed-mode mail/Internet survey for the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF). The overall goal of this survey was to assess organic farmers' production, marketing, and farm policy information needs and preferences. The results will be used for the purpose of enhancing OFRF information and outreach tools and formats. Of the 1,750 respondents contacted, 309 completed the survey by mail and 99 by Web; 23 partially completed the survey on the Web. These results represent a 24% response rate. *Principal Investigator and Study Director:* Rose Krebill-Prather.

PATRONS

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- National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago
- RTI International
- Survey Research Center, University of Michigan
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Energy Use and Conservation. From April through June 2011, SESRC contacted 1,000 customers of Tacoma Power to learn more about how they use energy in their homes and how services might be improved. The mixed-mode study used Web, mail, and telephone methods for data collection. Overall, 197 completed by phone, 254 by mail, and 113 by Web; 17 partially completed the Web instrument. This results in an overall 63% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

Business and Economic Development Center (BEDC) Survey. In June through July 2011, SESRC collaborated with the BEDC at Univ. of Washington's Foster School of Business to conduct a telephone survey of businesses that have used the services provided by BEDC. The goal of the survey is to improve services and track outcomes. A total of 60 interviews were obtained from a starting sample of 165 for a 36% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* John Tarnai, *Study Director:* Tim Faiella.

WISCONSIN

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WISCMOMS Pilot Survey. The Survey Center is conducting an extensive pilot survey of families with complex or potentially complex family studies. This pilot will involve 200 CAPI interviews in Milwaukee and Dan Counties to test the feasibility of a larger study and to test a complex laptop-iPad diary interface developed to assist with data collection. The interface was presented at 2012 IFD&TC. *Principal Investigator:* Lawrence Berger (UW School of Social Work).

2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Study. We are completing our 12th year conducting the Wisconsin BRFSS. This year, we are completing 3,050 RDD and 750 cell with an asthma follow-up

study. We are also planning a rural county oversample for this study later in the year. The client is the Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services and the CDC.

Wisconsin Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). We will collect our 6th year of data for PRAMS, a study of maternal attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. This partnership with the Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services includes a much larger African-American oversample of 1,800 in addition to the main state sample.

Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation (DOT) Traffic Safety Studies. We will be completing a series of four RDD telephone surveys evaluating the effectiveness and awareness of Wisconsin DOT PSA campaigns. We will collect 500 completed interviews both pre- and post-campaigns.

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Marital Satisfaction and Conflict Study. The goal of this national study is to explore how factors such as stress, socioeconomic status, previous socialization patterns, values, and behaviors affect couples in terms of marital satisfaction and conflict. The findings from this research will help researchers understand marital conflict and the impact it has on health and well-being. This information could have policy implications in the areas of health and social services that will be beneficial to families and future generations. With funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Institute conducted 1,500 CATI interviews with randomly selected adults across Canada during the winter and spring of 2011–12. *Principal Investigator:* Rhonda Lenton (York University), *Study Director:* David Northup.

The 18th Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) Education Survey: Public Attitudes towards Education in Ontario.

The OISE at the Univ. of Toronto has been undertaking a provincial education survey every two years since 1978. This wave of the study examines Ontarians' attitudes toward the education system in general and more specifically, their satisfaction with schools, opinions about funding priorities, knowledge about governance, accommodation for minority cultural and religious groups, and other current policy issues including province-wide tests and government spending on education. The CATI survey was conducted with 1,000 randomly selected adult Ontarians during the winter and spring of 2011–12. Funding was provided by OISE and several provincial government ministries and educational associations. *Principal Investigator:* Doug Hart (OISE); *Study Director:* John Pollard.

Social Capital, Cultural Capital, and Ethnic Advancement in Toronto. We know surprisingly little about the social relationships within and between ethnic groups in a highly multicultural city although social networks are the channels through which crucial information and influence flow. For

ethnic group members, networks and culture can affect work location and job quality, and success in advancing group goals depends on how positively outsiders feel about the group, how aware they are of important group problems, and how willing they are to support action to remedy such problems. This project will systematically map relationships in and between groups, access to ethnic group and mainstream culture, and the distribution of potential support for antidiscrimination policies, all for the first time. With funding from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Institute conducted 900 CATI interviews with Black, Chinese, and White adults in Toronto during the winter and spring of 2011–12. *Principal Investigator:* Bonnie Erickson (Univ. of Toronto), *Study Director:* Liza Mercier.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Survey Research reports on the new appointments and promotions of professional staff at academic and not-for-profit survey research organizations, as well as those of the for-profit organizations that are patrons of the newsletter.

Larry Hembroff, Director of the Office for Survey Research at the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University, was recently elected Vice President and President-elect for 2013 of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO).

At NORC, **Kennon Copeland** has been promoted to Senior Vice President and Director for the Statistics and Methodology department. Research Programs welcomes Senior Fellow **Clifford Zinnes** (International Projects), Senior Fellow **Larry Bye** and Principal Research Scientist **David Rein** (Public Health Research), Senior Fellow **Joseph Broz** (Security, Energy, and Environment), Principal Research Scientist **Elaine Swift** (Health Care Research), Senior Statistician **Erin Tanenbaum** (Statistics and Methodology), and Senior Research Scientist **Ira Sommers** (Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Criminal Justice Studies).

The Survey Research Center at the Univ. of Michigan is pleased to welcome a number of individuals

into new project management positions and roles in Survey Research Operations (SRO). These include Survey Specialists **Heather Rejto**, **Cathy Myles**, **Christopher Schinke**, **Rebecca Loomis**, **Amanda Schuetz**, **John Hayes**, and **Theresa Camelo**. **Maureen O'Brien** has accepted a new position in SRO as a Senior Research Associate, and **Bob Lee** accepted a new position as Survey Director. **Dan Zahs** is now directing SRO's Statistic and Methods Group, and **Cheryl Wiese** is now the manager for the Survey Services Lab. **Andrew Hupp** has been promoted to Senior Survey Specialist, and **Shonda Kruger-Ndiaye** and **Meredith House** have been promoted to Survey Director.

At RTI International, the Education Studies Division has been joined by Education Analysts **Silpa Chittilla** and **Colleen Spagnardi** and Research Education Analyst **Jason Hill**, and the Research Computing Division welcomes Bioinformatics Research Scientist **Nathan Gaddis**, Research Programmers **Jason Kennedy** and **Rajendra Jesrani**, Senior Technical Advisor **Desderi Wengaa**, Project Director **Henry Chidawanyika**, Gender Specialist **Fortunate Machingura**, Programmer **Michael Mouzakitis**, and IT Documentation Specialist **Marsha Blackburn**. In the Survey Research Division, new Survey Specialists include **Milton Cahoon**, **Ian Conlon**, **Katrina Ladd**, **Marshica Stanley**, and **Craig Owen**; **Amanda Wilmont** joined as a Survey Methodologist.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

This section contains listings of employment opportunities in survey research organizations. Listings can be sent to the editors at the address in the newsletter or e-mailed to Irmccall@uic.edu. Survey Research does not charge a fee for these postings.

RTI International's Survey Research Division is looking for a **Behavioral Scientist** to lead program evaluation and assessment studies focused on homeland security, defense, and other social sciences programs. Duties include obtaining research funding for new grants and contracts; enhancing the scientific stature and external recognition of RTI through publishing in peer-reviewed journals and presenting at professional conferences; and providing leadership and vision for further develop-

ing program evaluation and assessment studies on public safety, homeland security, defense, immigration, emergency response preparedness, and other social sciences opportunities. Qualifications include a PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology or related field with at least 6 years of relevant research experience, a strong publications record and experience working in contracting environment, and a successful record of obtaining competitive funding. To view the entire job requisition, please go to www.rti.org/careers and search for job #13898.

PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of publications related to survey research. They are not available from Survey Research nor the Survey Research Laboratory.

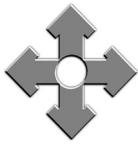
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