

# THE STATISTICAL CONSULTANT



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Section on Statistical Consulting  
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## ASA Now Accepting Nominations for the 2011 W.J. Dixon Award for Excellence in Statistical Consulting

**Janice Derr**, U.S. Food and Drug Administration<sup>1</sup>

The ASA is pleased to announce that the W.J. Dixon Award for Excellence in Statistical Consulting is now available for nominations for 2011. The award, funded by a gift from his family, honors the memory of Wil Dixon by recognizing outstanding contributions to statistical consulting. The award is given to a distinguished individual who has demonstrated excellence in statistical consulting, or developed and contributed new methods, software, or ways of thinking that improve statistical practice in general. In 2009, Doug Zahn received the first Dixon award. In 2011, the award was given to Dallas Johnson.

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## **Executive Committee of the ASA Section on Statistical Consulting**

(available at <https://www.amstat.org/sections/officers.cfm?txtComm=SCNSL>)

**Chair:** James Grady, jgrady@utmb.edu

**Chair-Elect:** Ralph O'Brien, obrienralph@gmail.com

**Past Chair:** Todd G. Nick, toddgnick@gmail.com

**Program Chair (for 2011 JSM):** Richard Ittenbach, richard.ittenbach@cchmc.org

**Program Chair-Elect (for 2012 JSM):**

**Secretary / Treasurer:** Brenda Gillespie, bgillesp@umich.edu

**Publications Officer:** Jennifer Schumi, jennifer@statcollab.com

**Webmaster:** Chuck Kincaid, charleskincaid@comsys.com

**Newsletter Editor:**

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**At Large Members:**

Larry D. Haugh, larry.haugh@uvm.edu

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**Council of Sections Representatives:**

Marlene J. Egger (Senior), marlene.egger@hsc.utah.edu

Raymond Hoffmann, rhoffmann@mcw.edu

If you would like to nominate a statistician for the 2011 Dixon award, please submit a nomination form, along with a letter of nomination and a recent CV of the nominee to the ASA office. The nomination form is available at the ASA web site

<http://www.amstat.org/careers/wjdixonaward.cfm>.

Nominations are due by March 15, 2011 and should be sent by email to the ASA office at [pamela@amstat.org](mailto:pamela@amstat.org) or by mail to 732 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, with attention Award Nominations.

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## **2010 W.J. Dixon Award for Excellence in Statistical Consulting Awarded to Dallas Johnson**

**John Boyer**, Kansas State University<sup>2</sup>

Kansas State news release from 6/30/10, reprinted with permission

Dallas Johnson received the W.J. Dixon Award for excellence in statistical consulting at the Vancouver Joint Statistical Meetings. Johnson is only the second recipient of the annual award, which was first awarded in 2009.

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Johnson, who retired from the Department of Statistics at Kansas State University in 2006, had a long and distinguished career as a faculty member and statistical consultant. He served 31 years in the Department of Statistics. “He was always very busy and was constantly sought after because of his vast knowledge of a wide variety of statistical areas and his ability to bring his consultees up to speed so that they had their own understanding of their results,” said John Boyer, professor and former head of the K-State Department of Statistics. “He was truly outstanding in these one-on-one settings, whether he was working with another statistician, a faculty colleague in another area, or students just beginning to grasp the statistical methodologies appropriate to the work they were doing.”

Johnson also worked with his K-State colleague and friend George Milliken on their “messy data” series of books. The first of these, “Analysis of Messy Data, Volume I: Designed Experiments,” was published in 1984 and earned both men national reputations. The pair revised the book in 2004.

The book spawned an assortment of short courses, workshops, traveling courses and seminars that strongly influenced a whole generation of statisticians, students, subject matter researchers and statistical consultants, Boyer said. The book describes not only methods of analysis, but also provides strong guidance on how and when to apply those methods, gives advice about diagnostic tools, and exhibits code for software that will accomplish the necessary tasks.

Johnson then co-authored two more books in the messy data series, one on analysis of covariance and another on nonreplicated experiments. In 1998 he authored a successful text on multivariate analysis, “Applied Multivariate Methods for Data Analysts.”

Boyer said Johnson’s talents have not been confined to K-State. He has done consultation work for the federal government, including for the Environmental Protection Agency as a member of its Human Studies Review Board. He has advised a number of researchers on methodologies for conducting their experiments and has helped guide the agency on oversight of sponsored research.

Johnson, who was raised in Central City, Nebraska, earned a bachelor’s from Kearney State College in Nebraska, a master’s from Western Michigan University and a doctorate in statistics from Colorado State University.

His many honors include being named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, which also presented him with the Founders’ Award, the highest honor given for service to the organization. In addition, he served as the first editor of the association’s Journal of Agriculture, Biological and Environmental Statistics.

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## Comments from the Past-Chair

**Todd Nick**, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences<sup>3</sup>

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the section as Chair in 2010. I will continue to serve as Past Chair in 2011 where I will chair the nominations committee. We are always looking for volunteers to help serve our section so please contact me at [tgnick@uams.edu](mailto:tgnick@uams.edu) if you would like to be nominated for an officer position in 2012 or be willing to serve the section in some other role. It was a pleasure to serve the Section and to see so many of you at JSM in Vancouver. Our business meeting and mixer had over 40 members present! Thanks to Hannah Feild for all of her hard work in soliciting door prizes from very generous vendors.

I hope you consider attending JSM in Miami this year where we will have three invited sessions. If you can attend, please participate in our section's business meeting and mixer. I would like to especially thank all of our officers and members who enthusiastically participated in the activities of the section, especially Walter Ambrosius who served as the 2010 Program Chair. He did a fabulous job.

Many thanks to Chris Holliman who kindly served as our newsletter editor for countless years and has now completed his term with this newsletter issue. We will miss him!

And finally, I would like to welcome our new officers, editors, and members of our section. Best wishes to James Grady, the chair in 2011. For more information on our Section, go to <http://www.amstat.org/sections/cnsl>.

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## Comments from the Chair

**James Grady**, University of Texas Medical Branch<sup>4</sup>

With great pleasure I begin my year as Chair of the Section on Statistical Consulting. This section has interested me from my early days of JSM mostly through the interesting sessions. Then I started attending the open business meetings because someone told me I would likely win a book in the raffle – and I have almost every year. Then I was the Program Chair a few years ago and that was both fun and educational regarding how the JSM sessions are created. I got involved in our section. It has been great.

We take great pride in providing sessions at JSM that are relevant and educational. Our sessions are well attended every year. Once again we will be putting together a strong program for Miami.

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At last year's business meeting we discussed the section presenting some educational webinars and I will be checking into that. Be sure to attend our sessions and the open business meeting this year – you will meet some friendly statisticians like yourself – and you might win a book!

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## Notes from the Editor

**Christopher Holloman**, The Ohio State University

The end of 2010 marked the end of my 3-year term as editor of the newsletter for the section. Thanks to everyone who submitted articles, pitched ideas, or took the time to provide feedback on the articles published. I've really enjoyed contributing to the section, and I hope I can continue to find a way to play a role.

I'm very excited to announce that Sarah Butler will be taking over the position of editor. Over the past few years, she has been extremely helpful in providing ideas for articles and making sure we put out a high-quality newsletter. I know she'll keep up her hard work and do a fantastic job in her new role.

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Section on Statistical Consulting  
website address:**

[www.amstat.org/sections/cnsl/](http://www.amstat.org/sections/cnsl/)

You'll find all information relating to the Section on Statistical Consulting, including our charter, officer list, section activities, past issues of *The Statistical Consultant*, minutes of past meetings, and more.