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Message from the Incoming Section Chair
Phil Kott

Happy belated New Year! Since this message is going out a bit later than usual, I needed to make a small change in the annual salutation before I jumped into the customary outline of some of the things the Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) will be doing over the next year. Much of the SRMS’ activity in 2014 will be centered around the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) to be held in Boston, Massachusetts in August. SRMS will again sponsor many activities at the JSM, including short courses and a variety of technical sessions.

In 2013, our section was one of the five to experiment with JSM “speed sessions,” in which each contributor gave a five-minute oral presentation followed later that day by a poster session. Speed sessions will again appear in 2014 and may be the future of JSM.
If you will be in Boston for the JSM, check the program for the SRMS business meeting and mixer, normally held Wednesday evening. Section members and non-members alike are welcome to attend to learn more about the section’s activities and, if so inclined, provide ideas and input into future activities. Best of all may be the free food and drink available while socializing with colleagues. Non-members can easily duck out before the formal meeting starts. Members too, but many will find the meeting itself of surprising interest.

Besides the short courses and technical sessions at JSM, the SRMS is again planning for a series of webinars throughout the year. The webinars are announced to the SRMS membership via email and in the section newsletter, and information about upcoming webinars is also provided on the section website (at www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS).

A valuable source of information is the section’s listserv hosted by the University of Maryland. I have used it myself on occasion for lazy man’s research. If you don’t know about the listserv, check out http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/srms_net.html.

The ASA co-sponsored Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology (JSSAM) began publishing last year. It is available for free to SRMS members. The JSSAM aims “to publish cutting edge scholarly articles on statistical and methodological issues for sample surveys, censuses, administrative record systems, and other related data.” There is also a section for e-letters on the journal’s website, http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/jssam/.

One of the section’s most important activities is fostering, supporting, and encouraging scholarly work by students entering the field of survey research. Together with the Social Statistics Section and the Government Statistics Section, the SRMS co-sponsors a student travel award competition that provides the awardees with funds to support their travel to the JSM. Information about this competition is available at http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/studentawards.html.

Here is hoping that we and our section have another productive year!
Message from the Outgoing Section Chair
Jill M. Montaquila

Happy New Year! As we all are still getting used to writing “2014” on our checks, I would like to take a moment to reflect on SRMS’ activities in 2013.

SRMS once again had a very active program at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Thanks to the efforts of Program Chair Frauke Kreuter, Program Chair-Elect Karol Krotki, and Education Officer Marilyn Seastrom, SRMS sponsored or co-sponsored 6 Invited Paper sessions, 25 Topic Contributed Paper sessions, 17 Contributed Paper sessions, 1 Continuing Education course, and 4 Roundtables. Additionally, SRMS was one of five ASA sections to participate in the piloting of SPEED session—single sessions containing twenty 5-minute oral presentations, followed by a poster session (later the same day) involving the same presenters. I heard quite a bit of positive feedback on the SPEED sessions, and they are on the program for the 2014 JSM in Boston.

Another very important SRMS activity is the presentation of awards. For the 2013 JSM, SRMS gave 2 Student Travel Awards, 3 Poster Awards, 2 SPEED Poster Awards, and co-sponsored 5 Student Paper Awards. Congratulations to section members Patrick Cantwell (U.S. Census Bureau), Wendy Lou (University of Toronto), Thomas Love (Case Western Reserve University), and Polly Phipps (Bureau of Labor Statistics), who were named ASA Fellows this year. Please see SRMS Fellows Committee Chair David Marker’s article in this newsletter on the Fellows nomination process.

Part of the Section’s business involves keeping the wheels turning—all the details that keep the Section in operation. SRMS Treasurer Jill Dever ensured that the bills were paid on time and that the SRMS Executive Committee was kept informed of the financial status of the Section. SRMS Secretary Rebecca Andridge took minutes of all SRMS Board meetings and the annual Business Meeting. Webmaster Pushpal Mukhopadhyay kept the Section website (www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS) up-to-date. Publications Officer John Finamore prepared, obtained, and submitted articles on Section activities to Amstat News. Newsletter editors Shelton Jones and Jamie Ridenhour kept us informed of all noteworthy SRMS news and events with their biannual publication of the newsletter. Council of Sections Representatives Chris Moriarity and Jeff Gonzalez attended Council of Sections meetings, kept the SRMS Board informed of Council of Sections issues, and served as the Section’s voice at those meetings.

Chair-Elect Phil Kott chaired an ad hoc committee that updated the Section’s policy on funding/sponsorship requests. And, on a related note, SRMS was a sponsor of the First Asian
ISI Satellite Meeting on Small Area Estimation which was held in September 2013, and will be a sponsor of a conference on "Frontiers of hierarchical modeling in observational studies, complex surveys and big data" in May 2014 (www.jointprogram.umd.edu/ghosh/). Past-Chair John Czajka provided continuing leadership and guidance to the Board, and was a tremendous help to me personally. Finally, the entire Board provided input regarding proposed changes to the Section charter (see the article on this topic in this newsletter), as well as the SRMS Officers’ Handbook, an operations manual of sorts that Past-Past-Chair Steve Cohen has graciously continued to assemble even after having been released from his official responsibilities.

Although the International Year of Statistics has come to a close with the new year, the celebration of our profession continues. (See the IYS 2013 website, www.statistics2013.org, for more information.) And SRMS’ active agenda will continue in the new year. Look for coming announcements about upcoming webinars, and about a new launch of a revamped mentoring program. And, of course, be sure to check back later (in the July 2014 newsletter, as well as the online program available at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2014) for details of what SRMS has planned for the JSM in Boston.

Best wishes to all of you throughout the new year!

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Proposed Revisions to the Section Charter
Jill M. Montaquila

In the next ASA ballot, SRMS members will see a ballot item pertaining to revisions to the Section Charter. The SRMS Executive Committee reviewed the Section Charter and is proposing the following revisions:

• Changing the name of the section from “Section on Survey Research Methods” to “Survey Research Methods Section”.

• Adding text to clarify that, in the event of a vacancy in an Executive Committee position other than Chair, Program Chair, or Chair-Elect, the appointment to fill the vacancy shall not be a member of the current Executive Committee.

• Revising the specification of the membership of the Committee on Nominations from “the following year’s Chair-Elect and…two other members of the Section” to “the following year’s Chair-Elect, current Chair, and current Chair-Elect” and, related to this, deleting the subsequent sentence that specifies that “No member of the committee [on Nominations], other than the Chair, shall be a member of the Executive Committee.”
• In reference to a petition (submitted by Section members) to nominate someone for a position on the Executive Committee, revising the wording regarding the timing of such a petition from “Such a petition must be submitted…within 45 days after the mailing date of the publication announcing the names of the candidates submitted by the Committee on Nominations” to “such a petition must be submitted…on or before the Association’s due date for nominations”.

• In the discussion of the election process, deleting the word “mail” from the sentence “All nominees are to be included in the Association’s annual mail ballot for the election of Association and Section officers.”

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Report from the Council of Sections Representatives
Jeff Gonzalez and Chris Moriarity

We would like to thank everyone who expressed their opinions regarding the formation of a new ASA section: "Section on Medical Devices and Diagnostics." In September, this new section was officially approved with a vote of 22 in favor and 9 against by the Council of Sections. It will be formally chartered in January 2014. We voted to support the new section.

In November, the Council of Sections voted on the question of allowing lifetime section memberships for ASA life members. There were three voting options: (1) free lifetime section membership to any number of sections; (2) one-time charge for lifetime section membership to any number of sections (with charge options $75, $105, $135); and (3) not allowing lifetime section membership. Based on input we received during the SRMS Executive Committee discussion at the November conference call, we voted for option (2), $75 charge.

The first option, a free lifetime section membership to any number of sections, received the most votes. This will be implemented in 2014 in the following manner. In spring 2014, all new ASA Life Members can sign up for free Section Life Memberships. In fall 2014, renewal notices will be sent to all current ASA Life Members and at that time they will have the option to sign up for any number of free Section Life Memberships.
JSM 2014

Karol Krotki

Preparations for 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings are well underway!

We have completed arrangements for four Invited Sessions on the program: paradata, calibration, vendor data for address based sampling, and adaptive survey design.

Proposals for Topic Contributed Sessions, including paper, panel, and poster sessions, are now being accepted. Topic contributed paper sessions consist of a collection of contributed talks and discussions (optional) that share a common topic. The sessions are 110 minutes in length including five presentations of 20 minutes each, with 10 minutes at the end for floor discussion and concluding remarks. If interested, please send me an email (kkrotki@rti.org) to discuss potential topics and proposed speakers. All abstracts for topic contributed sessions must be entered by February 3, 2014, and the sessions must be approved prior to that date.

Proposals for Individual Contributed Sessions (papers and posters) are also being accepted at this time. One advantage for poster submissions is that presenters will be entered into the Section's Poster Competition, with cash prizes for the best entries.

The 2013 poster award winners:

- Brianna Bright, Julia Soulakova, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, On Simultaneous Interval Estimating the Relative Prevalence of Forward Shifting in Reported Regular Smoking Initiation Age
- Marie-Eve Tremblay, Robert Courtemanche, Institut de la statistique du Québec, Weighting Strategy in the Quebec Survey on the Experience of Health Care
- Rey de Castro, Yang Xia, Connie Sosnoff, Lee-Yang Wong, CDC National Center for Environmental Health, Bootstrap Estimation of Variance from ROC Curve Analysis of Complex NHANES Survey Data

SPEED Session. SRMS is one of the sections that will participate for the second year in this relatively new mode of presentation which consists of 20 oral presentations of five minutes each. These are followed by a poster session later on the same day. Several incentives are available for presenters: e.g., electronic poster boards and refreshments at the oral presentation part of the SPEED session. In addition, SRMS offers cash prizes for the best entries.

The 2013 SPEED session winners:

- Thomas Lumley, University of Auckland, Analysis of Large Survey Data Sets Using
Dynamically Generated SQL

- Kathryn Aloisio, Nicholas J. Horton, Smith College, Sonja Swanson, Private, Alison E. Field, Boston Children's Hospital, Nadia Micali, UCL Institute of Child Health Efficient, Estimation of Partially Observed Clustered Data Using Multiple Imputation

**Roundtable** discussions are another great way to generate discussions with attendees who share similar interests, and leading a roundtable does not preclude you from giving a presentation or submitting a poster. Proposals for roundtables should be submitted to Daniell Toth (toth.daniell@bls.gov).

As always we are in need of **volunteers** to chair contributed sessions. If you are planning to attend and would be willing to serve, please send me an email. We hope to hear from many of you, and to see you in Boston in August!

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**Student Travel Award Winners**

Jill Dever

2013 Award Winners

- **Danielle Sullivan**, The Ohio State University
- **Siyu Qing**, The George Washington University

Full list available at [http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/awards.html](http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/awards.html)
SRMS Guide to Spending Initiative

SRMS Board

The SRMS Executive Committee is to use the following criteria for a spending initiative:

Criterion 1: The spending initiative will generate a product that provides tangible benefits to SRMS members.

Criterion 2: The spending initiative is expected to produce a valuable consolidation or expansion of the survey research literature

Criterion 3: The spending initiative will provide substantive (positive) visibility for SRMS or survey research in the U.S. or abroad.

Criterion 4: The spending initiative will promote increased participation of survey professionals and/or provides encouragement for a non-survey professional to enter into survey research.

Whether or not a spending initiative satisfies a criterion is a subjective decision for Executive Committee members to make. Satisfaction of at least two these criteria in the view of an Executive Committee majority is a necessary but not sufficient condition for approval of actual spending.

This information can be found at http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/spending.html
Nominate Deserving Fellows

David Marker
Chair, SRMS Fellows Committee

Each year the ASA selects up to 60 members to be honored as Fellows. We believe there are more SRMS members who are deserving of this recognition. Everyone is encouraged to identify friends and co-workers who would be strong candidates. Anyone can be nominated by getting the application from https://www.amstat.org/fellows/nominations/index.cfm? . The deadline for applications is March 1, 2014.

The role of the SRMS Fellows Committee is to help facilitate this process by identifying worthy candidates and finding people to spearhead their nomination. I am the new chair of the Committee, along with members Mick Couper (University of Michigan), Brian Harris-Kojetin (U.S. Office of Management and Budget), and Elizabeth Stasny (Ohio State University). You can see how important this process is by the willingness for Michigan and Ohio State to collaborate!

If you have a suggestion on who should be nominated, or are willing to help nominate someone but have questions about how to proceed, please feel free to contact any committee member. My email is DavidMarker@Westat.com.
Your SRMS Officers

Chair: Phil Kott  
Chair-Elect: Michael Elliott  
Past-Chair: Jill M. Montaquila  
Treasurer: Jill Dever  
Secretary: Sam Hawala  
2014 JSM Program Chair: Karol Krotki  
Program Chair-Elect: Daniell Toth  
Publications Officer: John Finamore  
Education Officer: Marilyn Seastrom  
Section Representatives: Jeffrey Gonzalez, Chris Moriarity  
ASA Staff Liaison: Rick Peterson

More information can be found at http://www.amstat.org/sections/officers.cfm?txtComm=SSRMS.
SRMS Mission Statement

SRMS has 1500 members, of which over 100 are based outside of North America, and is one of the largest ASA Sections. The SRMS mission is to promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods by encouraging both theoretical and applied research on survey-related topics, and by disseminating information on survey methods.

Areas of interest for the Section include all that employ survey methodology as a focus or as a prime tool of investigation. Of special interest are:

- Theoretical foundations of sampling;
- Sample design and estimation;
- Nonsampling errors and data collection methods;
- Analysis and presentation of survey data;
- Education of the public and students on the importance of scientific survey research;
- Publication and dissemination of survey research findings; and
- Ethics related to survey conduct and standards for survey practice.

Not a member yet? Here is how you can join:

- If you are not an ASA member, go to the membership page of the ASA and fill the application at www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=becomeamember
  Then sign up for the SRMS section as part of your membership.
- If you are already an ASA member, just call customer service at 1-888-231-3473 to add SRMS membership.

The SRMS has produced material and resources that are available on our website including:

- The “What is a Survey?” series for non-specialists, free of charge
- The SRMSNET Mailing List
- List of other related associations
- Survey Analysis Software (under Links and Resources)
- Universities and Laboratories
- …and much more.

For more information, including links to specific officers, check out the SRMS website at: www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html or there is also a link from the ASA website at www.amstat.org.