

Inside this Newsletter

Message from the Section Chair	1
Report from the Council of Sections Representatives	2
Free Food!	2
Fellows Committee	3
Incoming Section Officers Elected	3
Student Travel Award Winners	3
Report from the Publications Officer.....	4
2013: The International Year of Statistics	5
First Asian International Statistical Institute Satellite Meeting on Small Area Estimation.....	6-7
SRMS Mission Statement	8

Message from the Section Chair

Jill M. Montaquila



If you are planning to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings, please be sure to mark your calendars to attend the Survey Research Methods Section Business Meeting and Mixer, to be held Wednesday, August 7, 6:00 – 8:00 pm in CC-516c! Although we will be arriving in Montreal too late for the Montreal Beer Fest (May 29 – June 2) and too early for the Omnivore Food Festival (August 14-18), the appetizers and beverages at the Business Meeting and Mixer will make attending worth your while! And as usual, the Business Meeting will include updates on various SRMS activities. The SRMS Executive Committee is particularly interested in obtaining members' input on mentoring, so we hope you will plan to attend and share your thoughts on this important topic, as well as other matters. Look forward to seeing you in Montreal!

Report from the Council of Sections Representatives

Jeff Gonzalez and Chris Moriarity



Congratulations to the newly elected SRMS officers. A generic Section Officers Handbook (not completely up to date) in HTML format is located within the ASA member only area at: <https://www.amstat.org/membersonly/sections/handbook/index.cfm?fuseaction=main>

New SRMS members are welcome to review the section officer information in the handbook. Please let your current SRMS officers know if you are interested in helping out, or to express your

interest in serving as an officer in the future.

The Statistics Interest Group for Medical Devices and Diagnostics ([ASA link](#)) has petitioned the Council of Sections Governing Board to become a Section of ASA. The Council of Sections will discuss the interest group's petition at our business meeting at JSM, and we will vote on the motion to grant a section charter to the interest group shortly after JSM. We welcome your input on this topic.

Free Food!

Jill M. Montaquila

Students and early-career professionals: This message is for you! If you will be in Montreal for the Joint Statistical Meetings, we hope to see you at the Survey Research Methods Section Business Meeting and Mixer. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, in CC-516c. Please plan to come for the food and conversation, and stay for the meeting. The SRMS Executive Committee will provide updates on the Section's activities, and is very interested in getting members' input. Attending the business meeting is a great, no-obligation way to find out what is going on in the Section and to learn of ways in which you could get involved. Hope to see you there!

Fellows Committee

John L. Czajka

This summer the section's Fellows Committee will begin the process of identifying section members who would be strong candidates for election as ASA Fellows. After identifying potential candidates, the committee will work to identify individuals who could serve as nominators (ASA's term) for the candidates. The nominator works with the candidate to assemble the nominating package, which includes up to four supporting letters. It is important to line up those who will contribute to a nomination early, as an individual may participate in only two nominations—as nominator or author of a supporting letter—in a given year.

The new chair of the Fellows Committee is David Marker of Westat. Other members include Mick Couper of the University of Michigan; Brian Harris-Kojetin of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, and Elizabeth Stasny of The Ohio State University department of statistics. Elizabeth and David have joined the committee just this year.

The Committee would welcome any suggestions for candidates. You can forward such suggestions to David Marker at davidmarker@westat.com. Please include the reasons why you think this individual would make a good candidate for ASA Fellow.

Incoming Section Officers Elected

We congratulate the new elected SRMS officers who take their positions on January 1, 2014:

- ❖ Section Chair Elect: **Michael R. Elliot**, University of Michigan
- ❖ Program Chair Elect: **Daniell Toth**, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- ❖ Secretary: **Sam Hawala**, U.S. Census Bureau

Student Travel Award Winners

- ❖ Siyu Qing, George Washington University
 - Michael Larsen, sponsor
- ❖ Danielle Sullivan, Ohio State University
 - Rebecca Andridge, sponsor

Report from the Publications Officer

John Finamore

Hello! Periodically, we provide our members with an overview of the responsibilities for the different Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) Officer positions. Our hope is that these overviews will provide our members with insight on the work the SRMS officers are completing and hopefully encourage some members to considering volunteering for a SRMS officer position in the future. Since I'm the current SRMS Publications Officer, I'll provide an overview of my duties.

The SRMS Publications Officer is responsible for ensuring that the SRMS members and those considering SRMS membership are aware of the ongoing SRMS activities and the work the section is accomplishing. There are four main publication tools used by the Publications Officer in this effort:

- The SRMS website (www.amstat.org/sections/srms)
- The SRMS Newsletter (www.amstat.org/sections/srms/newsletter.html)
- The "ASA Section News" section of the monthly AmstatNews Magazine
- The ASA social network sites ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#))

So, if you are looking for the latest happenings in the SRMS world, please check out these publication tools. Of course, if you have a question about a SRMS activity and cannot find any information on it, please feel free to contact me directly.

While the Publications Officer position does have responsibilities, publicizing the SRMS activities is certainly not a one-person job. Most of the SRMS Officers do some type of outreach throughout the year as part of their standard SRMS duties. In fact, a few SRMS members deserve special recognition for the publication responsibilities they provide to our section. Pushpal Mukhopadhyay maintains the SRMS website and oversees the posting of the SRMS-sponsored proceedings papers to the website. And the tremendous newsletter you are currently reading is the result of the hard work put forth by the SRMS Newsletter Co-Editors, Shelton Jones and Jamie Ridenhour. Thank you, Pushpal, Shelton, and Jamie!

In conclusion, I encourage you to send me ideas for future AmstatNews articles or Facebook/Twitter posts if there is a SRMS activity that you would like publicized. In addition, if you have any ideas or suggestions for improving our publication activities, please let me know.

I can be reached by email at jfinamor@nsf.gov.

Have a great summer!

2013: The International Year of Statistics

Jill M. Montaquila

It's 2013, and it's a great time to be a statistician! Organizations and individuals throughout the world are celebrating this as the International Year of Statistics (<http://www.statistics2013.org>). The IYS 2013 effort aims to increase awareness of the use of statistics in our everyday lives, to celebrate the field of statistics, and to provide resources for educators. Check out the IYS 2013 website for more information. On that website, you can also sign up to receive the IYS 2013 newsletters. If you have any suggestions of things the Survey Research Methods Section could do in recognition and celebration of the International Year of Statistics, please send your suggestions to the Executive Committee at asa.srms@gmail.com.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
STATISTICS

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

First Asian International Statistical Institute Satellite Meeting on Small Area Estimation, Bangkok, Thailand, Sept. 1-4, 2013

Co-Sponsors:

- *International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS)*
- *Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) of the American Statistical Association*
- *Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand*

Planning and evaluation of government programs usually requires access to a wide range of national and sub-national socio-economic, environment and health related statistics. There is, however, a growing need for statistics relating to much smaller geographical areas, where data are too sparse to support the sort of standard estimation methods typically employed at a national level. These 'small area' official statistics are routinely used for a variety of purposes, including assessing economic well-being of a nation, making public policies, and allocating funds in various government programs. With the rapid development of survey methodology, different governmental agencies are now exploring ways of combining national survey data with administrative and census records to produce reliable small area statistics. The field of small area estimation research is quickly expanding to meet this demand, and is constantly tackling practical problems that are theoretically challenging.

The main purpose of the proposed meeting will be to assess the current state of development and usage of small area methodology. We hope that this meeting will serve as a bridge between mathematical statisticians and practitioners working on small area estimation in academia, private and government agencies. This meeting in Bangkok will give researchers an opportunity to learn about state-of-the-art small area estimation techniques from the experts in the field.

The tentative program will allow for nine invited plenary sessions and three special topic sessions. The special topics sessions are open to anyone interested in presenting a paper on small area estimation. Please send the title and abstract (max. 300 words) of your talk to *Partha Lahiri* at plahiri@survey.umd.edu as soon as possible but no later than May 15, 2013, if you are interested in presenting a paper in a special topic session. Abstracts that are related to the theme of the meeting will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to a favorable review by the scientific committee and space constraints. We will also have two half-day training sessions – one on September 1, 2013 and the other on September 4, 2013. Please visit the workshop web site visit <http://www.math.sc.chula.ac.th/sae2013> for detailed information on the meeting.

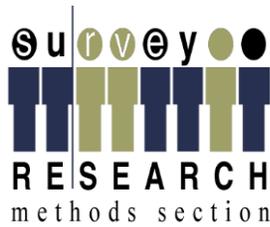
We look forward to seeing you in Bangkok!

Raymond Chambers, University of Wollongong, Australia (ray@uow.edu.au)

Partha Lahiri, University of Maryland, College Park, USA (plahiri@survey.umd.edu)

Co-chairs, Scientific Committee

For registration and local information, please visit the conference website or contact *Songkiat Sumetkijakan*, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (songkiat.weng@gmail.com)
Chair, Local Organizing Committee



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.