



Letter from The Chair

By Mike Messner, 2021 GSS Chair

Time flies! Fall is here. JSM is old news. It seems like spring 2022 is far into the future, but if you wish to run for elected office in GSS, apply or nominate a colleague for the honor of ASA fellow, or organize a session at JSM 2022, this is the time to get started. Although elections will be in Spring 2022, GSS has only a few weeks to put together a slate of candidates – and EVERY position is open in this round. With similar timing, Fellows nomination packages are evaluated in the Spring, but preparing a package can be a challenging and time-consuming task. Finally, although JSM 2022 is 10 months away, one deadline (for submitting invited session proposals) has already passed and others are fast-approaching.

So, if you wish to engage and stay up-to-date with these and other activities, you can find key information below and online at <https://amstat.org> and <https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/home>.

Pat Doyle Award Winner—Kathleen McDonald-Johnson

The Executive Committee of the Government Statistics Section (GSS) created the Pat Doyle Award in 2005 as a tribute to Pat’s dedication to the statistical field and the GSS during her lifetime. When Pat died, she left her imprints on an astonishingly wide range of projects and activities in the U.S. federal statistical community. As in past years, the Executive Committee gives this year’s award to a person who contributes to the GSS in a way that leaves a lasting impact on GSS and ASA.

This year’s award goes to Kathleen McDonald-Johnson “for energizing a community of methodologists who are key to the production of valid official statistics at every level of the government, for working tirelessly to grow this community, while crediting the Section at every step, and for her stewardship of the Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop series.”

Nominations Sought for GSS Board

Seeking nominations for the following board positions with terms starting on January 1, 2023.

GSS Open positions

- Chair-elect/Chair/Past Chair (2023-2025)
- Council of Sections Representative (2023-2025)
- Program Chair-Elect/Program Chair (2023-2024)
- Secretary/treasurer (2023-2024)
- Publications Officer (2023-2024)

Please feel free to review our charter for further details on each of these positions. <https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/aboutus/charter>

Contact:

Jenny Thompson (Katherine.J.Thompson@census.gov) ,
Mike Messner (mjaymessner@gmail.com), or
Simone Gray (zqv6@cdc.gov)

Virtual JSM 2021 RECAP

The GSS sponsored four JSM Invited Sessions. There were two paper sessions titled “Producing Official Statistics During a Pandemic: Advances Under Adversity” and “Collecting, Protecting, and Sharing COVID-19 Data and the Stories They Tell “. We had the following two invited panel sessions: “Building the Infrastructure for the Future of Official Statistics”, and “The Independence of Federal Statistical Agencies”. We also sponsored 7 Topic Contributed Sessions, including a student paper competition. The GSS sponsored a roundtable session on missing data treatments for short-term statistics during a pandemic.

Several of the invited sessions were extremely popular, with at least 60 attendees in most. We were able to overcome some of the difficulties with the speed sessions that others were having with sound and slide issues by asking them to come to the green room at least 10 minutes early and test out their talk. This worked out extremely well and we were able to get all of our participants through in a timely fashion.

GSS Mentoring Program Virtual Kick-Off

Contributed by Amanda Koepke

Following a successful and rewarding first year, the Government Statistics Section is excited to announce the start of our 2021-2022 mentoring program.

Please join us at a virtual kick-off event on Tuesday, October 19th, from 4:00-5:00 PM EDT to learn about the program and meet other prospective mentors and mentees (no need to know which you will be yet!).

Please register in advance for this event:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcqc-mgpzlr0td226XAzBlq5L3AJxD15s](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcqc-mgpzlr0td226XAzBlq5L3AJxD15s)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

In the GSS mentoring program, the mentee-to-mentor relationship can be flexible to suit the needs of both the mentor and the mentee. The relationship may be short-term to address a short-term need (like help finding opportunities on USAJobs.gov) or long-term (monthly check-in calls as the mentee navigates the first year of a new career). GSS encourages mentees and mentors at all stages of their careers and will support partnerships throughout the year, providing guidance and tips, as well as suggestions and questions to get mentee-mentor conversations started.

Come to our kick-off event to learn more about the GSS mentoring program and how you can get involved! In addition to a program overview, the event will feature a **speed networking event** to allow potential mentors and mentees to introduce themselves. After the event, participants will be encouraged to indicate who they might like to work with when signing up for the program. **Note that kick-off event attendance is not a requirement for participation in the program.** Details on how to sign-up for the program will be provided in an email to the GSS community.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2022 ASA FELLOWS

The GSS Fellows Committee seeks members who have made significant contributions to statistical science and to the profession – and wish to be nominated for the award of “**Fellow of the ASA**”. If you would like to nominate one of our members for this honor, or if you, yourself, may be a strong candidate for this honor, please consider connecting with the Committee by email to Mike Messner at mjaymessner@gmail.com.

WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER CONTENT ENCOURAGED

Contact Kathi Irvine, kirvine@usgs.gov