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Fall 2020 in Review

GSS Mentoring Program

Kicked off in September 2020, GSS offers a flexible program that incorporates long and short term needs. So far, we have over 20 pairs signed up. The program continues to evolve! For more information on the program, hints, and other resources, see the “2020-2021 Mentoring Program” page on the “Professional Development/Mentoring” site available from the GSS web page.

Blended Data Practicum Workshops (September & October)

GSS concluded the wildly population Blended Data Virtual Workshop Series with two sessions featuring nine separate presentations total. These workshops were offered jointly with the Social Statistics Section and were hosted as part of the ASA’s profession development series. Recordings of both sessions are available at the “Virtual Workshop Practicum—Fall 2020” page on the “Professional Development/Mentoring” site.

Virtual Roundtable (October)

GSS conducted a virtual roundtable on “Advances in Estimation Methods for Combining Probability and Nonprobability Samples”. This roundtable was on the original 2020 JSM program but cancelled later due to the pandemic. GSS program chair, Dr. Michael Yang from NORC at the University of Chicago led and moderated discussions among 13 participants from academia, government, and private industry. The roundtable provided a broad overview of the field and offered an opportunity for interested researchers and practitioners to share their perspectives and experiences. Discussions focused on successes, challenges, client communications, and future research agenda. A recording is available from the GSS web page.

On behalf of the GSS community, we thank to the following outgoing board members for their many years of outstanding service to our section: Jenny Guarino (Publications Officer) Elizabeth Mannshardt (Past-Chair) Tara Murphy (Secretary/Treasurer) Michael Yang (Program Chair)

Jenny Thompson
GSS Chair 2020

Upcoming Awards (2021)

Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award
Chair: Rajeshwari Sundaram (sundaramr2@mail.nih.gov)

Roger Herriot Award
Chair: Stephanie Eckman (seckman@rti.org)

The GSS web page is located at https://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/home
Student Opportunities (2021)

JSM 2021
- Best Student Paper Award, sponsored by the Government, Social Statistics, and Survey Research Methods Sections.
- Data Challenge Expo, sponsored by the Government, Computing, and Graphics Sections

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (GSS and SSS)
Chair: William Cecere (williamcecere@westat.com)

Sixth International Conference on Establishment Statistics (ICES-VI) Student Contest (GSS and SSS)
See https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2021/studentcontest.cfm

2022 GSS Board Candidates

GSS Chair Elect 2022
Minsun Riddles (MinsunRiddles@westat.com) - Westate
Claire McKay Bowen (claire.mckay.bowen@gmail.com) - Urban Institute

GSS JSM Program Chair-Elect 2022
Lisa Mirel (zav8@cdc.gov) - CDC
Doug Williams (Williams.Douglas@bls.gov) - BLS

Looking Back as We Look Forward

It has been such an honor to serve GSS these past three years. What a fantastic community! As I look back over this last year, of course there were some interesting challenges. We missed seeing our friends and colleagues in person at conferences such as JSM, however it was great to connect virtually across multiple platforms. GSS’s Virtual Workshop launched in 2019, and proved to be an important resource in 2020 – expanding to include the Fall’s Virtual Practicum, and offering a chance to learn and connect. Throughout 2020, GSS has continued to look for new ways to reach and serve the community. GSS’s Virtual Roundtable this fall, "Nonprobability Samples", was a big success – reaching capacity very shortly after its announcement! GSS looks to offer additional Virtual Roundtables and Panels in 2021. Suggested topics include “Paths to Leadership and Career Growth in Government” and “Tips for Non-Academics Publishing”. If you have an idea for a Virtual Roundtable or Panel, feel free to reach out to the GSS Board.

Among other GSS initiatives that will continue into 2021, I am particularly excited to see GSS’s newly launched Mentoring program grow in 2021, and to revisit GSS’s Mentoring Roundtable at JSM 2021. Our biggest strength in this community is in each other – and in continuing to develop and support our members and colleagues.

I would like to extend a heart-felt thanks to my colleagues on the Executive Board, and a welcome to the incoming 2021 Board – an amazing team, dedicated to serving GSS and ASA.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Mannshardt, GSS Past-Chair 2020