

**GSS/SSS January 2009 NEWSLETTER**  
**Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections**  
**American Statistical Association**

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SSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>

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**Upcoming Deadlines and Events:**

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>January 22, 2009</b> | Challenges and Opportunities for the Statistics Profession and the American Statistical Association |
| <b>February 2, 2009</b> | JSM 2009: Abstract submission closes at 3:00 pm Eastern or 12:00 pm (Noon) Pacific                  |
| <b>March 27, 2009</b>   | Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award—Nomination deadline                                                 |
| <b>April 1, 2009</b>    | Roger Herriot Award—Nomination deadline                                                             |
| <b>April 15, 2009</b>   | Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship—Application deadline                                                 |

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**Change of Newsletter Editor**

*Submitted by Sonya L. Vartivarian, GSS Publications Officer*

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Carrie Dennis, outgoing Newsletter Editor, for a wonderful job that she has done. Carrie will continue being involved in the publication of the newsletter in her new position as a Social Statistics Section Publications Officer. We wish Carrie all the best in her new role!

We would also like to welcome the new Newsletter Editor, Natalya Verbitsky. Natalya received her Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Michigan and is currently working as a statistician at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. We are looking

forward to a fruitful collaboration with her in the production of the newsletter. If you have any articles or announcements that you would like to submit for publication in the newsletter, please email them to Natalya at [nverbitsky@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:nverbitsky@mathematica-mpr.com).

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### **Planning for JSM 2009: Volunteers to Chair Contributed Sessions**

*Submitted by Kathy O'Connor, 2009 Program Chair for the Social Statistics Section*

If you are going to attend the 2009 JSM meeting in Washington DC (August 2 - 6, 2009) and wish to volunteer as a **contributed session chair** for SSS or GSS-sponsored sessions, please contact Kathy O'Connor (SSS Program Chair 2009, [koconnor1@cdc.gov](mailto:koconnor1@cdc.gov)) or Sunghee Lee (GSS Program Chair 2009, [slee9@ucla.edu](mailto:slee9@ucla.edu)). There are two types of contributed sessions: **regular contributed** and **topic-contributed**.

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### **Planning for JSM 2009: Call for Contributed Session Abstracts**

*Submitted by Kathy O'Connor, 2009 Program Chair for the Social Statistics Section*

The 2009 SSS and GSS program chairs encourage you to organize a contributed session and submit an abstract for the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). It will be held in Washington DC from August 2-6, 2009, with the theme "Statistics: From Evidence to Policy". There are two types of contributed sessions: regular and topic-contributed. Before you submit the abstract to ASA for a contributed session, please contact Kathy O'Connor (SSS Program Chair 2009, [koconnor1@cdc.gov](mailto:koconnor1@cdc.gov)) or Sunghee Lee (GSS Program Chair 2009, [slee9@ucla.edu](mailto:slee9@ucla.edu)). They will keep track of the sessions SSS or GSS may either sponsor or co-sponsor.

**Parameters for contributed session options are listed below.** All abstracts must be submitted online at the ASA website from **December 1, 2008 through February 2, 2009 (due by 3:00 PM Eastern, 12 Noon Pacific)**.

#### **Topic-contributed paper session:**

- 110 minutes in length; collection of contributed talks and discussions that share a common topic
- Must be 5 presentations (including discussants) of 20 minutes each, with 10 minutes of floor discussion at the end
- Three format options: Five (5) papers; **OR** four (4) papers and one (1) discussant; **OR** three (3) papers and two (2) discussants
- All speakers must submit an abstract to ASA, and indicate they are in a topic-contributed session (give the name of the organizer)
- Coordinate through the JSM program committee member

#### **Topic-contributed panel session:**

- 110 minutes in length; panel discussion format; panel members provide commentary on a particular topic
- Minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) panelists; panels each require ONE abstract submitted by the organizer
- Coordinate through the JSM program committee member

#### **Topic-contributed poster cluster:**

- Three (3) to six (6) posters on a related topic - theme can be applied, methodology-related, or theoretical

#### **Regular contributed session:**

- 110 minutes in length
- Opening remarks by session chair (5 minutes), followed by six (6) or seven (7) speakers (15 minutes each)
- If 6 speakers: 15 minutes of floor discussion at the end; if 7 speakers: no discussant or floor discussion

#### **Contributed poster:**

- 110 minute session
- 8 ft by 4 ft board

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### Planning for JSM 2009: GSS Contributed Poster Contest

*Submitted by Carol House, Chair of the Government Statistics Section*

Thinking about contributing a paper to JSM? Why not contribute that paper through a “poster” format. The Government Statistics Section is initiating a new annual **competition for “best poster”** presentation at JSM to encourage both the quantity and quality of poster submissions. Winner of the best poster will receive \$500 plus two years of free membership in GSS. Honorable Mentions will receive \$250. Winning posters will be re-displayed at the GSS Business Meeting and Social.

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### Challenges and Opportunities for the Statistics Profession and the American Statistical Association

Speaker: Ronald L. Wasserstein, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
American Statistical Association

Sponsor: Office of Biostatistics Research  
Division of Prevention and Population Sciences  
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute  
(Bio)Statistics Seminar Series

Date/Time: Thursday, January 22, 2009 / 11am - noon

Location: Conference Room 9091  
Two Rockledge Center, 6701 Rockledge Drive,  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Abstract: From his perspective as ASA's Executive Director, Ron Wasserstein will discuss seven sets of challenges and opportunities he sees as particularly important for our profession, and for the ASA. These include: membership, the statistical pipeline, visibility and impact of the profession, publications, meetings, internationalization/globalization, and accreditation. Each set includes questions for the participants, so a large portion of the time will be spent in audience discussion.

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### Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award - Open for Nominations

*Submitted by Carol House, Chair of the Government Statistics Section*

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring award is intended to encourage the mentoring of junior staff in the Federal statistical community. It is co-sponsored by the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section, the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, the Council for Excellence in Government, the Washington Statistical Society, and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. It is awarded annually to a supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of the Federal statistical staff who is nominated by co-workers and supervisors, and chosen by the Award Selection Committee. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium and a citation, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2009.

#### Guidelines:

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee.

- The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior staff in the Federal statistical community in development of their careers.
- Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.

- See GSS website for more details (<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>).

**Deadline:**

All nominations should be mailed or emailed no later than March 27, 2009. Please send to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee  
c/o Monica Clark  
The American Statistical Association  
732 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943  
[monica@amstat.org](mailto:monica@amstat.org)

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**Rosemary D. Marcuss Wins the 2008 Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award**

*Submitted by Stephanie S. Shipp*

Rosemary Marcuss, Deputy Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, is the winner of the 2008 Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award. She has been the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis since she joined the agency in 1998. Before that, she served for fifteen years as the Assistant Director for Tax Analysis of the U.S. Congressional Budget Office. Rosemary started her career in Washington as a junior staff member of the President's Council of Economic Advisors. Rosemary holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland. She was a National Science Foundation fellow during her graduate studies at the University of Maryland.

Rosemary maintains a special interest in making economic statistics and economic analysis accessible and comprehensible to as many people as possible. In 2005, she served as President of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE, the organization most clearly identified with representing the interests of the Federal Government statistical agencies and the needs of American business for timely and top quality economic statistics. In addition, Rosemary has served on the board of directors of the National Tax Association and the Washington D.C. National Economists Club. At present, she serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the George Washington University School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

Steve Landefeld, Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, says that during her time at BEA, Rosemary has made mentoring and career development a central focus of the Bureau's work. Shortly after coming to BEA, Rosemary redesigned BEA's mentoring program, making it a model for other units in the Department of Commerce wishing to develop their own programs.

Rosemary is continually redesigning BEA activities, from external outreach to internal presentations, to involve more junior staff. She works with individual staff to develop their presentations.

Each year, Rosemary also finds time to serve as a mentor at BEA. She has guided staff throughout the Bureau-ranging from accountants, to economists, to administrators-and consistently has been a major influence in these individual's lives. All have benefited from the experiences and many have advanced to leadership roles with the Bureau or other agencies. Rosemary's corporate and individual mentoring efforts have positively affected not only the entire Bureau but also other government statistical organizations.

Others who work with Rosemary state:

"Rosemary Marcuss has been an avid champion for the Bureau of Economic Analysis' development programs and efforts. She has played an integral role in finding innovative ways to develop employees, as well as sought input from executive staff, division chiefs, managers, and employees to ensure that all programs are relevant to the need of our employees."

"Over time, Rosemary was instrumental in not only helping me better focus my energies in some very fulfilling way, but also in helping me secure a number of rewarding professional assignments that literally changed my career. She is also dedicated to doing this for others. She enthusiastically supported BEA's mentoring program, and earlier this year, Rosemary launched an improved, more comprehensive mentoring program for BEA."

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## Roger Herriot Award - Open for Nominations

*Submitted by Dwight Brock, Chair Roger Herriot Award Committee*

Nominations are sought for the 2009 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career:

- Dedication to the issues of measurement;
- Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
- Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals at all levels within Federal statistical agencies, other government organizations, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2009 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with, and strongly supportive of, these organizations during his career. The award consists of a \$1000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2009. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

The previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award are Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (NCHS), Constance Citro (CNStat), Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (Census Bureau), Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau), Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS), Nancy Kirkendall (EIA) and Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau).

Nominations for the 2009 award will be accepted beginning in February 2009. Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that should include references to specific examples of the nominee's contributions to innovation in Federal statistics. These contributions can be to methodology, procedure, organization, administration, or other areas of Federal statistics, and need not have been made by or while a Federal employee.
- Up to six additional letters in support that document how each contribution demonstrates innovation.
- A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for the 2008 award, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

### **Deadline:**

Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2009. For more information, contact Dwight Brock, Chair, 2009 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-517-4026 or [dwightbrock@westat.com](mailto:dwightbrock@westat.com). Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged. Please contact the chair if you need to make arrangements to fax or mail a nomination.

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## Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

The Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA) are pleased to announce the availability of a scholarship in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a founding member of the Section and long-time contributor to Federal statistics. The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS), co-sponsored with the Washington Statistical Society, the Caucus for Women in Statistics, Harris-Smith Institutes, Mathematica Policy

Research, and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence, thereby encouraging them to consider a future in government statistics.

The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee has selected Kirsten Lum as the 2008 scholarship winner. Kirsten was a student at American University at the time of selection but will be a doctoral student at the George Washington University this fall. This award provides funds for Kirsten's participation in the ENAR/IBS 2009 Spring Meetings in San Antonio, TX. She will be presenting on methods for joint modeling of longitudinal and survival time data. This is joint work with Dr. Rajeshwari Sundaram and Dr. Germaine Buck Louis, both from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). She began working on this project as an intern at NICHD in the summer of 2007. Kirsten is also a presenter at JSM 2008 in Session 267 (Methods for Survival Time Analyses). She will speak on "Joint Model of Longitudinal Binary Data with Discrete Survival Time." Members of the 2008 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee are Michael P. Cohen (chair), Robert A. Kominski, and Stephen L. Campbell.

**Deadline:**

Apply by April 15, 2009!

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**NISS Cross-Sector Research in Residence Program Established with USDA**

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is launching a Cross-Sector Research in Residence Program with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the survey and estimation arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. NISS invites faculty members, postdoctoral candidates and graduate students to apply for positions to work on this project. Some of the areas of interest include:

- Multivariate Imputation Mechanisms and Valid Mean Squared Error Estimation: Agricultural Resource Management Survey – Phase III
- New Design and Estimation Methodologies for Biased Self-Exclusion (Under-coverage): Estimation of Small Farms from Census Mail List
- New Statistical Editing and Imputation Methods That Preserve Data Quality: Quarterly Agricultural Survey
- Statistical Multi-Source Predictive Models and Error Estimates: Major USDA Crop Protection Forecasts and Estimates

To read more about the NASS/NISS Cross-Sector Research in Residence Program, or to apply, go to [www.niss.org/rir200910/Summer-Research-in-Residence2009-10.html](http://www.niss.org/rir200910/Summer-Research-in-Residence2009-10.html).

## GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION

*The mission of the Government Statistics Section (GSS) is to promote the use of sound statistical theory and methods in the production of data at all levels of government - be it Federal, State, local, or international; assist in the broad dissemination of those data; and encourage good statistical practice by all users. Areas of interest for the Section include all that involve the production, dissemination, and application of governmental statistics, including concern with statistical policy issues, quality and usefulness of governmental data products, special problems of State and local data, comparability of data among different countries, and the role of professional statisticians in the public sector.*

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## SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION

*The Social Statistics Section seeks to advance research in social statistics, both in areas which involve the use of methods of statistical inquiry, and in those which involve the use of statistical data and the development of statistical measurement. This section will also plan for active participation in the affairs of the American Statistical Association by those interested in these matters and for representation of activities in this major field in the program of the ASA.*

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