

GSS/SSS JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

**February 2010**

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|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Deadline for Submitting Abstracts for 2010 JSM Contributed Sessions |
| 28 | 2011 Waksberg Award Nomination Deadline                             |

**Spring 2010**

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|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| March 26 | Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Nomination Deadline   |
| April 1  | Roger Herriot Award Nomination Deadline                  |
| April 15 | 2010 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Application Deadline |

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2009 WAS GREAT! – A MESSAGE FROM GSS OUTGOING CHAIR **NEW!**

Submitted by Robert Lussier, 2010 GSS Past Chair

My term as 2009 Chair of the Government Statistics Section (GSS) has now ended. I was honoured to be the first Canadian to serve in this capacity. My colleagues on the Executive Committee had to cope with my French accent ... and my sense of humour!

The end of my tenure also coincides with my retirement from Statistics Canada. I have decided to resign from my job as Director General, Operations, and start a second life ... as a very young retiree, of course. Wish me good luck in my new undertakings.

Although I have had a very interesting and diversified career, the job of government statistician is not immediately attractive to all. GSS has been active in sponsoring sessions for the Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver in August 2010 to promote what we do. There will be two GSS invited sessions that will involve Heads of statistical agencies: one session that is more US centric, and one that is international in nature. I had the pleasure to organise the latter one. I am pleased to report that Brian Pink, Chief Statistician from Australia, and Jil Matheson, National Statistician from the United Kingdom, will come all the way from their respective countries to meet us in Vancouver. They will join Munir Sheikh, Chief Statistician from Canada; Keith Hall, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics; and Cynthia Clark, Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service; to form a panel that will address the question of How Government Statistics Makes a Difference. The panel will be moderated by 2009 ASA President Sally Morton. This session will take place Monday, August 02, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. I hope that you will come in great numbers to show your appreciation for the commitment made by these very busy people to travel all the way to Vancouver and spend time with us. Also note that Brian Pink will likely lead a roundtable at the Meetings. Check the announcement as this will likely sell out quickly.

On the same wave length, let me tell you that GSS is very keen in getting involved in the organization of events and conferences. We are committed to be a permanent sponsor for ICES (the International Conference on Establishment Surveys). This very successful event takes place every three or four years and explores the current state of the art in survey methodology for business, institutional and agricultural surveys. The next conference (ICES IV) will take place in Montreal in June 2012. GSS is also discussing the sponsoring of another promising international conference. I will keep the details to a later date, once the contractual arrangements have been signed. The fact that the finances of the section are in good health allows us to take these initiatives as services to our members.

I am also very proud to report that the number of GSS Section members has now exceeded one thousand. Membership has steadily increased over the years. We encourage all current GSS members to continue to spread the good words, i.e. to rally other statisticians to join the Section. We reach for all members through our monthly electronic newsletter. You are welcome to submit articles by contacting GSS newsletter editor Natalya Verbitsky Savitz at NVSavitz@Mathematica-MPR.com. Also do not miss our regular articles in Amstat News (including our summaries of COPAFS meetings).

GSS took over the management of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award (2009 recipients Kevin Cecco and Lillian Lin). This award encourages mentoring of junior government staff with respect to statistics. Stephanie Shipp and Beth Kilss did an excellent job setting up the procedures for the management of the award. This includes not only the publicity, solicitation of nominations, selection of recipients, etc, but also the raising of funds to cover the annual honoraria as well as the expenses associated with a reception and the awards.

GSS also sponsors or co-sponsors several other awards. I want to take a few minutes to list them. Moreover, I want to encourage members to submit names as potential recipients for these awards. There is a monetary contribution that accompanies most of these awards. Details about the awards can be found on the GSS website <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>, including the purposes of the awards, the contact persons and how to make nominations. So GSS sponsors the Pat Doyle award (2009 recipient Stephanie Shipp), the Roger Herriot Award (2009 recipient Lynda Carlson); the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (2009 recipient Jenna Fulton); and finally awards for a student paper competition (5 awards were given in 2009) and for a poster paper competition at JSM (3 awards were given in 2009).

GSS had an excellent program at JSM 2009 (thanks to Sunghee Lee and Lisa Blumerman). We successfully launched our first poster competition as mentioned above, with one winner and two honourable mentions. We succeeded in having six sold out roundtables. Participants seem to have enjoyed the choice of subjects and the discussion with the roundtable leaders. I encourage you to try one

next year, if you have not already done so. However, there is a fee associated with them, the breakfast ones being cheaper than the lunch ones.

Finally, I want to thank all my colleagues on the Executive Committee as well as all contributors to the activities of the Section who have made 2009 a very successful year. I especially want to thank the three members who are leaving the Executive Committee (Stephanie Shipp, Sunghee Lee and Carolee Bush) for their contributions over the years. I also want to thank our eight sponsors for their support (Bureau of Labor Statistics; CDC - National Center for Health Statistics; Internal Revenue Service - Statistics of Income Division; National Science Foundation - Division of Science Resources Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Dept of Agriculture - National Agricultural Statistics Service; U.S. Dept of Commerce - Bureau of Economic Analysis; and U.S. Social Security Administration).

Merci et au revoir.

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### **NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2011 WAKSBERG AWARD**

*Submitted by Daniel Kasprzyk, Chair of the Waksberg Award Selection Committee*

The journal *Survey Methodology* has established an annual invited paper series in honor of Joe Waksberg to recognize his contributions to survey methodology. Each year a prominent survey statistician is chosen to write a paper that reviews the development and current state of an important topic in the field of survey methodology. The paper reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterized Joe Waksberg's work.

The recipient of the Waksberg Award will receive an honorarium and give the 2011 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium to be held in the autumn of 2011. The paper will be published in a future issue of *Survey Methodology*.

The author of the 2011 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the American Statistical Association. Nomination of individuals to be considered as authors or suggestions for topics should be sent **before February 28, 2010** to the chair of the committee, **Dan Kasprzyk** ([DKasprzyk@Mathematica-MPR.com](mailto:DKasprzyk@Mathematica-MPR.com)).

Previous Waksberg Award honorees and their invited papers are:

- 2001 Gad Nathan, "Telesurvey Methodologies for Household Surveys-A Review and Some Thoughts for the Future." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp.7-31.
- 2002 Wayne Fuller, "Regression Estimation for Survey Samples." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 5-23.
- 2003 David Holt, "Methodological Issues in the Development and Use of Statistical Indicators for International Comparisons." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 5-17.
- 2004 Norman Bradburn, "Understanding the Question-Answer Process." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 5-15.
- 2005 J.N.K. Rao, "Interplay Between Sample Survey Theory and Practice: An Appraisal." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 117-138.
- 2006 Alastair Scott, "Population-Based Case Control Studies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 123-132.
- 2007 Carl-Erik Särndal, "The Calibration Approach in Survey Theory and Practice." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 99-119.
- 2008 Mary Thompson, "International surveys: Motives and Methodologies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 131-141.
- 2009 Graham Kalton, "Methods for Oversampling Rare Subpopulations in Social Surveys." *Survey Methodology* (forthcoming)
- 2010 Ivan Fellegi, Manuscript topic under consideration

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD

Submitted by Beth Kilss, 2010 Chair, Griffith Award Selection Committee

It's time to start thinking about nominating an outstanding supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of a governmental statistical staff who encourages mentoring of junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical system for the 2010 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award.



Jeanne Griffith

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was established to honor Dr. Griffith who died in August 2001 after working for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her latter senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's highest priorities was to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

Nominations for 2010 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award will be accepted beginning in January 2010. The last date for submission of nominations is March 26, 2010, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 7, 2010. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium (to be split if there is more than one awardee), a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2010.

The winning mentor(s) will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing, analysis, presentation and organizational skills and knowledge;
- Encouraging junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self confidence through feedback on their efforts, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

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, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers.
- **Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.**
- The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice...counsels with long-term goals in mind...thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts...encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach or a teacher.

Photo copies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

The nomination packages are reviewed by a committee consisting of six members who each serve a six-year term:

- Emerson Elliott, National Center for Education Statistics (Retired)
- Carol House, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Dan Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research
- Beth Kilss, 2010 Chair, Internal Revenue Service (Retired)
- Stephanie Shipp, 2009 Chair, Science & Technology Policy Institute
- Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Andy Orlin, Jeanne Griffith's husband, serves as emeritus member, providing continuity and historical perspective.

This year marked the first time in the award's 7-year history that two winners were chosen, as well as the first time the ASA's Government Statistics Section oversaw the award selection process. **Kevin Cecco**, Chief of the Corporation Statistics Branch, Statistics of Income Division, IRS, and **Lillian Lin**, Mathematical Statistician, Division of HIV and AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received their awards at a ceremony held on June 17, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Past recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award were:

2003: Rich Allen (National Agriculture Statistical Service);
2004: Beth Kilss (Internal Revenue Service);
2005: Renee Miller (Energy Information Administration);
2006: Martin O'Connell (U.S. Census Bureau);
2007: Stephanie Shipp (National Institute of Standards and Technology – at the time of the award);
2008: Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis); and
2009: Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service) and Lillian Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

If you are not familiar with the award or would like more information about the current winners and the history of the award, see the excellent article (including a number of pictures from the ceremony) in the August 2009 issue of *Amstat News*, pp. 51-54, or go to <http://www.amstat.org/publications/amsn/2009/august.cfm>.

For more information about the nominating process for the 2010 award, please go to: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform10.doc> or <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform10.pdf>.

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Monica Clark** at monica@amstat.org, (703) 302-1860, and **Beth Kilss** at bakilss@msn.com, (703) 451-7240.

The nomination package may be mailed or emailed **no later than March 26, 2010**, to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee

c/o The American Statistical Association
732 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
monica@amstat.org

Sponsors of the Award: The Government Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association, which manages the award, would like to thank our original co-sponsors:

- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS),
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP),
- Social Statistics Section (SSS) of the American Statistical Association (ASA),
- Washington Statistical Society (WSS), chapter of the ASA,

and our two new co-sponsors:

- American Educational Research Association (AERA), and
- National Opinion Research Corporation (NORC).

Please contact Stephanie Shipp (sshipp919@gmail.com), if you would like to contribute to the award.

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**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE ROGER HERRIOT AWARD**

*Submitted by Frank Potter, Chair of the Herriot Award Committee GSS COPAFS Representative, 2009-2010*

Nominations are sought for the 2010 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, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2010 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 \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2010. 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), Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau), and Lynda Carlson (NSF).



Nominations for the 2010 award will be accepted beginning in February 2010. 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 demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
- A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

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

For more information, contact **Frank Potter**, Chair, 2010 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 609-936-2799 or [FPotter@Mathematica-MPR.com](mailto:FPotter@Mathematica-MPR.com). Completed packages must be received by **April 1, 2010**. 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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2010 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship NEW!

Submitted by Stephen Campbell and Mark Harris, Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee Members

The Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA) are pleased to announce the availability of the 2010 scholarship in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a founding member of the Section and a long-time contributor to Federal statistics. The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS) is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence, thereby encouraging them to consider a future in government statistics. The scholarship is 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.

The 2009 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship winner was Jenna Fulton, a matriculating doctoral student in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. Her training and related experiences are in the principles and practices of survey research with special interest in federal statistical surveys. Jenna has worked as a research assistant at the University of Maryland on the American Time Use Survey and was a teaching assistant for the Survey Fundamentals course during 2008 -2009 academic year. Jenna was a summer intern during 2009 with the Agency for Health Research and Quality where she assisted with the agency's research. Jenna utilized the scholarship to expand her knowledge and explore opportunities for improving the quality of survey data collected by the federal agencies by attending short courses and sessions at 2009 Join Statistical Meetings. Her interest includes measurement errors, missing data, and survey sampling.

Members of the 2010 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee are Stephen Campbell (chair), Mark Harris, and John Czajka. To apply for a WJSS Award, the following information must be sent to the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee by **April 15, 2010**: (1) a completed WJSS Application Form (available at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp10.doc> for a MS Word version or <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp10.pdf> for an Adobe pdf version); (2) a proposal of activity to be funded; (3) academic transcript (for current/recent students) or job performance reviews for the past 2 years (for nonstudents) or equivalent proof of superior academic and/or professional performance; and (4) two letters of recommendation. Announcements of the awardees will be made by June 1, 2010. All applicants will be notified by e-mail.

Eligibility: The WJSS is targeted at students and persons early in their career in government statistics. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education. Membership in the Government Statistics Section, Social Statistics Section, or in the ASA is not required.

Deadline: Apply by **April 15, 2010!**

Contact Information:

Please send materials to:
Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee
c/o Stephen Campbell
NIST - Advanced Technology Program
100 Bureau Drive, MS 4710
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-4701
Stephen.Campbell@nist.gov
Telephone: (301) 975-3118
Fax: (301) 975-4776
electronically to: Stephen.Campbell@nist.gov.

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**OUR EXPERIENCE WITH “POSTERIZING” OUR JSM PRESENTATIONS    NEW!**

*Submitted by Steven Cohen, Past Chair GSS, and Lester (Randy) Curtin, Secretary/Treasurer, GSS*

At this past years' Joint Statistical Meetings, an effort was made to increase the number of poster presentations. The Government Statistics Section sponsored a contributed Poster session and provided three cash awards in a spirited competition. Several members of the GSS Executive Board contributed Posters to the 2009 Meetings. Two board members kindly volunteered to give a few quick thoughts on their experience.

**(From Steven Cohen): My Experience Presenting a Poster at JSM**

I have attended JSM since 1979 almost on an annual basis; most years I presented a paper or participated on a panel. Every year that I have been on the program at JSM I never seriously considered a poster. Why? I felt it was a step child--never in a good location, no major interest by attendees, etc. So, why do it?

With push of program chairs to present posters due to the ever expanding program, I decided to give a poster a shot at JSM in Washington, D.C. My joint paper with Mark Fiegenger seemed a great match for a poster—we were looking for feedback on the confidentiality strategy we were using for two tables from the Survey of Earned Doctorates. We hoped to get suggestions for alternative approaches that we hadn't thought about. In a traditional paper presentation, you rarely get lots of dialogue and do not get a chance to interact with attendees and to discuss in detail why you took the approach you did, what you decided wouldn't work, etc.

While we didn't get any new ideas that we hadn't considered, there was a lot of interest on what we did and why. We met and chatted with many people that we never would have seen if we had done a traditional paper. We also learnt about on-going projects in other organizations. The poster location in DC was also conducive for attendees we know just to stop by and chat.

By the end of the two hours I was becoming hoarse from talking. It was a great experience and I will clearly consider a poster in the future!!

**(From Randy, with assistance of Lisa Mirel, CDC):**

Around this time last year, I was involved in the preparation of several “contributed session” abstracts for the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings. For one abstract, the lead author was presenting at ASA for the first time and was more comfortable with a poster. For two others, one as lead author and the second as a co-author, I submitted our contributed papers as presentations but checked the submission box to indicate the papers could be moved to a poster session – and both were moved. As a long term ASA member of



34 years, I had mostly avoided giving poster presentations and suddenly I was faced with preparing three different posters.

It seemed to me that I could present more information, especially since the advent of power-point, during a regular session. For a 15-minute presentation, I would limit myself to about 10 to 15 individual "slides" although some authors try to fit in 20 or more at times (if you have to chair a session you can expect a few of those for your session). In our initial planning, the size for a single poster seemed too restrictive. In working with my co-authors to produce the three posters, we had a power-point template that was divided into three panels. Surprisingly we found that the JSM posters are large enough that we were able to incorporate the equivalent of 16-18 power-point slides. So we probably had more information in the poster than we could have reasonably discussed in just 15 minutes at a regular presentation!

Not only did we get slightly more information displayed as a poster, but frankly, it was better organized. A few slides dropped in as power-point objects covered the background, a few slides at the end were for the conclusions, and the remainder of the space allowed us to prioritize our voluminous computer output to best summarize the key content.

The space limitation in a poster is real – the space limitation for a 15 minute presentation should also be real, but it is subject to more self-discipline to restrict the number of slides and to not talk too much on any particular slide. Having attended over 30 JSMs, I have been to many, many presentation where the introduction and background are so interesting, at least to the author, that a great deal of the presentation time is taken up with this information and suddenly the presenter has to scramble to try and get all the research and conclusions presented in the last 5 minutes. With a poster, the author can appropriately allocate the presentation material into background, methods, results and conclusions.

Not only does the poster provide a reasonable balance for the presentation of the material, but the audience is not overwhelmed by the author speaking too long on something they already know or speaking too short on something they wish to know. In the poster session, the audience can focus on the parts of the presentation that matter most to them. This leads to the most advantageous aspect of the poster – the personal interaction with the audience.

In a contributed papers session, an author gives the entire presentation and only at the end of the session is there a limited time for a few questions, reflections, or observations for all speakers in the session. With the number of concurrent sessions at JSM, the audience is usually limited to those who work in the same general discipline. Plus, a person might have an interesting observation on your work and you never get to hear it because that person left after your presentation to go to another session. In a poster presentation, the people coming by are more diverse. You get a chance for a more in-depth discussion with people in other fields. They learn from you, and you learn from them. A side note: one of the results of the poster presentation was that my co-authors and I received several invitations to present the material as seminars, both at universities and at Federal agencies in the Washington D.C. area.

Overall my experience with several posters at last year's JSM was extremely favorable. There was much more interactions with a more diverse audience. Although I am an old-timer when it comes to ASA, my co-authors were much younger and I believe that they had the added advantage of making a number of professional contacts that may serve them well in the future.

Editorial Note: As you prepare for the 2010 JSM in Vancouver, please consider the advantages of having your contributed paper given in the GSS Poster Competition. There will again be a cash award for the best poster, but in addition you too should find it a very rewarding experience.

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PLANNING FOR JSM 2010: GSS POSTER COMPETITION NEW!

Submitted by Natalya Verbitsky Savitz, GSS/SSS Newsletter Editor

The Government Statistics Section will be holding its second annual poster competition at JSM 2010. Any poster presented at JSM 2010 in Vancouver is eligible for the award. The winner of the competition will be awarded a \$500 prize, and up to two honorable mentions will be awarded \$250. The awardees will be invited to the GSS Business Meeting and Social, where their work will be re-displayed and recognized. The competition judges will include 2009, 2010, and 2011 GSS Program Chairs.

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### PLANNING FOR JSM 2010: VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS

*Submitted by Joseph Salvo, SSS 2010 Program Chair, and Lisa Blumerman, GSS 2010 Program Chair*

If you are going to attend the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver (July 31 - August 5, 2010) and wish to volunteer as a contributed session chair for SSS or GSS-sponsored sessions, please contact **Joseph Salvo** (SSS 2010 Program Chair, [jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov)) or **Lisa Blumerman** (GSS 2010 Program Chair, [lisa.m.blumerman@census.gov](mailto:lisa.m.blumerman@census.gov)). Complete details are provided below.

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PLANNING FOR JSM 2010: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED SESSION ABSTRACTS

Submitted by Joseph Salvo, SSS 2010 Program Chair, and Lisa Blumerman, GSS 2010 Program Chair

The 2010 SSS and GSS program chairs encourage you to organize a contributed session and submit an abstract for the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). The theme of JSM 2010 will be **“Statistics: A Key to Innovation in a Data-Centric World.”** There are two types of contributed sessions: regular and topic-contributed. Before you submit an abstract to ASA for a *topic-contributed* session, please contact **Joseph Salvo** (SSS 2010 Program Chair, jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov) or **Lisa Blumerman** (GSS 2010 Program Chair, lisa.m.blumerman@census.gov). They will keep track of the sessions SSS or GSS may either sponsor or co-sponsor.

Parameters for contributed session options are listed below. Please plan ahead. All abstracts must be submitted online at the ASA website from **December 1, 2009 through February 1, 2010.**

Topic-contributed paper session:

- 110 minutes in length; collection of contributed talks & 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 discussion or floor discussion

Contributed poster:

- 110 minute session
- 8 ft by 4 ft board

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**PLANNING FOR JSM 2010: GSS AND SSS SPONSORED ROUNDTABLES**

*Submitted by Iris Shimizu, GSS 2011 Program Chair-Elect, and Nancy Clusen, SSS 2011 Program Chair-Elect*

The 2011 Program Chairs-Elect for GSS and SSS, Iris Shimizu and Nancy Clusen respectively, are responsible for organizing roundtables for JSM 2010. If you are interested in hosting a roundtable lunch or breakfast please contact either **Iris Shimizu** ([ishimizu@cdc.gov](mailto:ishimizu@cdc.gov)) or **Nancy Clusen** ([NClusen@Mathematica-MPR.com](mailto:NClusen@Mathematica-MPR.com)).

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN STATISTICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS—AMHERST NEW!

Submitted by Michael Lavine, Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Massachusetts--Amherst

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (www.math.umass.edu) invites applications for a tenure track position in Statistics at the Assistant Professor level. This position is part of an interdisciplinary cluster in Computational Social Sciences.

Successful candidates will have a Ph.D. in Statistics or a related discipline and high potential for interactions with like-minded researchers in computer science and the social sciences, particularly political science and sociology. Possible areas of interest include machine learning, data mining, applications in social sciences, statistical modelling of networks, and the interface between statistics and computer science. Applicants should have demonstrated facility with applied statistics and large data sets. Exceptional promise in research and a commitment to outstanding teaching at all levels of the curriculum are expected.

Applications should be submitted electronically through the AMS website mathjobs.org. Alternatively, applicants may send a curriculum vitae, research and teaching statements, and arrange to have three letters of recommendation sent to:

Search Committee
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Lederle Graduate Research Center
710 North Pleasant St.
Amherst, MA 01003-9305

Review of applications for tenure-track positions will begin February 1, 2010. Applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled. The University provides an intellectual environment committed to providing academic excellence and diversity including mentoring programs for faculty. The College and the Department are committed to increasing the diversity of the faculty, student body and the curriculum. The University of Massachusetts is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of minority groups are encouraged to apply.

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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