

GSS/SSS January 2016 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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

GSS Publications Officer: Sylvia Dohrmann
(SylviaDohrmann@westat.com)

SSS Publications Officer: Matt Jans
(MJans@ucla.edu)

Newsletter Editor: Aneesah N. Williams
(Aneesah.N.Williams@census.gov)

IN THIS ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM GSS CHAIR	NEW!	.....	2
MESSAGE FROM SSS CHAIR	NEW!	.....	2
NOMINATIONS FOR ROGER HERRIOT AWARD		.....	2
DATA.GOV: A GREAT RESOURCE FOR DATA		.....	4
2016 WRAY JACKSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP	NEW!	.....	4
MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING GSS CHAIR	NEW!	.....	6
EXPANDING SOCIAL MEDIA USE		.....	6
SEEKING FEEDBACK ON SSS WEBSITE		.....	7

~~~~~  
**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

- |                    |                                                        |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 18</b> | 2016 Conference on Statistical Practice; San Diego, CA |
| <b>June 20</b>     | ICES-V; Geneva, Switzerland                            |
| <b>July 30</b>     | JSM 2016; Chicago, Illinois                            |

~~~~~  
MESSAGE FROM GSS CHAIR

NEW!

Submitted by Michael Davern (GSS Chair)

Thank you for electing me to serve as your section chair in 2016. I am very much looking forward to the year ahead serving GSS and its membership, which will include welcoming many of you to my home town of Chicago for the Joint Statistical Meetings this August. Please get your topic contributed sessions, posters and papers in by the deadline to make the program for the meetings. If you have any questions please contact Morgan Earp, the 2016 GSS Program Chair. I would also like to thank the outgoing officers of the GSS, especially our former chair Wendy Martinez. A list of your current section officers can be found at the back of the newsletter and also at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/officers2016.htm>. Please feel free to contact us with ideas and issues relevant to our section. We are here to serve you.

~~~~~  
**MESSAGE FROM SSS CHAIR**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Guillermina Jasso (SSS Chair)*

As we begin this exciting new year, I want to first thank all the SSS members who served the Section in various capacities last year – in scholarship and governance, advancing knowledge, and strengthening our infrastructure. It is not easy to take on additional duties, and we are all richer for it. So on behalf of the entire membership, I want to thank the officers and everyone who agreed to serve on one or another committee, or chair one or another session.

Two things are especially impressive about the Section. One is the breadth and richness of scholarly interests. We have unusually fertile ground for new developments in statistics. The other is the liveliness of the SSS Community website. Every time I go to the webpage, I see new and interesting things.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at JSM, and I thank you in advance for your participation in SSS for all of 2016.

~~~~~  
NOMINATIONS FOR ROGER HERRIOT AWARD

Submitted by Sylvia Dohrman (GSS Publication Officer)

Roger Herriot was the Associate Commissioner of Statistical Standards and Methodology at the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) when he died in 1994. Prior to his service at NCES, he also held several positions at the U.S. Census Bureau, including Chief of the Population Division. Soon after his death, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA) along with the Washington Statistical Society (a chapter of ASA) established the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to recognize individuals or teams who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs.

Nominations are sought for the **2016 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics**. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

- 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 or teams 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. As innovation often requires or results from teamwork, team nominations are encouraged. Team innovations often are more lasting, resulting in real paradigm shifts, not just one-off improvements. For an example, see the 1998 Herriot (team) award.

The recipient of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprised of 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 2016. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past Award Recipients:

- 1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
- 1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)
- 1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- 1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)
- 2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)
- 2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)
- 2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)
- 2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
- 2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)
- 2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)
- 2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
- 2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
- 2012 – Paul Biemer (RTI International)
- 2013 – Exact Match Team (Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, and Internal Revenue Service)

2014 – Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics study; Abowd, Haltiwanger, Lane

2015 – Jennifer Madans (National Center for Health Statistics)

Nominations for the 2016 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2016**.

Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that includes 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 with current contact information. For team nominations, the vitae of all team members should be included.

The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Dave Hubble, Chair of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-610-8814 or davidhubble@westat.com. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2016.** Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a .pdf file are strongly encouraged.

DATA.GOV: A GREAT RESOURCE FOR DATA

Submitted by Jill Montaquila (GSS-Past Chair)

Looking for data? Data.gov is a one-stop-shopping resource for the U.S. Government's open data--Federal, state, local government, and university-collected data on topics ranging from agriculture to energy to public safety. There is a general search box (useful in situations in which the name of the target dataset is known), as well as the ability to filter by location, topic, topic category, dataset type, tag words, format, organization type, organization, and/or publisher. The website provides metadata on each dataset, along with links to the data and to the agency/organization providing the dataset. It also contains a list of (and links to) apps that use the U.S. Government open data, including, for example, the Alternative Fueling Station Locator, the College Affordability and Transparency Center, the Home Energy Saver app, and a Product Recalls app. So, if you are searching for data, information about datasets, or apps that use these datasets, data.gov could be a valuable resource!

2016 WRAY JACKSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Joe Salvo (WJSS Committee Chair)

NEW!

The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS) was created to honor the memory of a founding member of the GSS and a long-time contributor to federal statistics. Dr. Smith's federal career spanned four decades and included positions in the Office of Economic

Opportunity, where he was responsible for the operational start-up of the Job Corps and evaluation of manpower development programs; the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in what was then the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, where he oversaw the policy research data center and directed the Income Survey Development Program (the predecessor to the Survey of Income and Program Participation); and the Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, where he directed energy modeling and data systems development and provided oversight of the Department's surveys of energy consumption in multiple sectors. After retiring from the federal government in 1983, Dr. Smith continued to play a role in federal statistics from the private sector, first as a visiting senior fellow at Mathematica Policy Research and then at Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., before founding Harris-Smith Research, an operations research/management science consulting group, with Carl Harris. In 1997, Dr. Smith established the independent, nonprofit Harris-Smith Institutes to provide statistical research and a range of other services to other nonprofit organizations and governmental entities. He served as president of the organization until his death at the age of 75, in May 2000.

The WJSS was established by the GSS in 2001, with several other organizations recognized as Founding Sponsors. These include the Social Statistics Section (SSS) of ASA, which joined the GSS in 2005 as a primary sponsor of the award; the Caucus for Women in Statistics; the Washington Statistical Society; and both Mathematica and Synectics. In addition, upon its disbandment in 2002, The Harris-Smith Institutes donated a substantial sum to the scholarship fund, which achieved a milestone in 2004 by reaching \$25,000, sufficient to establish an endowment through the ASA.

The WJSS is intended to encourage young statisticians to consider a career in government service. The WJSS Award provides funding of \$1,000 to be used in ways that will advance the recipient's exposure to or experience with the application of statistics to problems relevant to any level of government. Past winners have used their awards to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings or other professional conferences; to take short courses or college classes on topics related to data analysis, measurement, or data quality; and to support aspects of their continued public policy research. Funds may be used for travel, board, tuition or registration fees, or for the purchase of books, software, data sets, or other supporting materials for research projects.

The WJSS is targeted at students and others early in their careers who show an interest in government statistics. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education. Membership in the GSS, SSS, or the ASA is not required. Applicants are asked to submit a proposal for the activity to be funded and to complete an application form (found on the GSS website at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt>) and provide two letters of recommendation.

Materials should be emailed to Joseph Salvo: jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov

Alternatively, applications can be mailed to:

Joseph Salvo
Director, Population Division
NYC DEPT. OF CITY PLANNING
120 BROADWAY, 31st FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10271

The application deadline for this year's award is April 1, 2016.

Members of the 2016 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee are:

Joseph Salvo (Chair), NYC Department of City Planning
Jenny Guarino, US Department of Transportation
Dudley Poston Jr, Texas A&M University

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the proposed activity to government statistics
- Quality of the proposed activity
- Innovation/ingenuity of the proposed project
- Feasibility of completion of the activity
- The applicant's career stage
- Past performance as reflected in the letters of recommendation

The award winner will be announced in May of 2016. All applicants will be notified by e-mail.

MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING GSS CHAIR

NEW!

Submitted by Wendy Martinez (GSS Past-Chair)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our section and our profession as your 2015 Section Chair. I appreciate all of the support I received from the GSS Executive Board and our section members. You made it easy!

Serving as an officer of the section is very rewarding, and I want to encourage you to volunteer to run for a section office in the future. As past chair, I will be looking for candidates to run in the election to be held in the spring of 2017.

Finally, the section is in good hands with our new Chair – Mike Davern. I know you will give him the support he needs to make 2016 the best year yet!

EXPANDING SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Submitted by Matt Jans (SSS Publications Officer)

Follow our new Twitter feed [@SocStat_AMSTAT](#) and look for a Facebook group over the next year. As always, check our website for updated newsletters and other information.

~~~~~  
**SEEKING FEEDBACK ON SSS WEBSITE**

*Submitted by Matt Jans (SSS Publications Officer)*

Publications Officer Matt Jans ([mjans@ucla.edu](mailto:mjans@ucla.edu)) and Webmaster Matt Brault ([mbrault@g.harvard.edu](mailto:mbrault@g.harvard.edu)) are seeking feedback and ideas for re-designing and updating the website (<http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>). Please email them both with any suggestions, ideas, or opinions about the site. These could include **visual layout/design ideas**, suggestions of **new content to include** (or content to remove), or anything else. Thanks in advance.

## 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.*

### OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

**Michael Davern**

Chair, 2016

[Davern-Michael@norc.org](mailto:Davern-Michael@norc.org)

**Jenny Thompson**

Council of Sections Representative, 2016-2018

[Katherine.J.Thompson@census.gov](mailto:Katherine.J.Thompson@census.gov)

**Amy O'Hara**

Chair-elect, 2016

[Amy.B.Ohara@census.gov](mailto:Amy.B.Ohara@census.gov)

**Sylvia Dohrmann**

Publications Officer, 2016

[SylviaDohrmann@westat.com](mailto:SylviaDohrmann@westat.com)

**Wendy Martinez**

Past Chair, 2016

[Martinez.Wendy@bls.gov](mailto:Martinez.Wendy@bls.gov)

**Aneesah Williams**

Newsletter Editor, 2016

[Aneesah.N.Williams@census.gov](mailto:Aneesah.N.Williams@census.gov)

**Morgan Earp**

Program Chair, 2016

[Earp.Morgan@bls.gov](mailto:Earp.Morgan@bls.gov)

**Bill Wong**

Assistant Editor, *Amstat Online*

[BJWG@yahoo.com](mailto:BJWG@yahoo.com)

**Michael Hawes**

Program Chair-elect, 2016

[Michael.Hawes@ed.gov](mailto:Michael.Hawes@ed.gov)

**Tai Phan**

GSSLIST Coordinator

[Tai.Phan@ed.gov](mailto:Tai.Phan@ed.gov)

**Jennifer Parker**

Secretary/Treasurer, 2015-2018

[JDParker@aol.com](mailto:JDParker@aol.com)

**Rick Peterson**

Staff Liaison

[Rick@amstat.org](mailto:Rick@amstat.org)



## 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.*

### OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

**Guillermina Jasso**

Chair, 2016  
[GJ1@nyu.edu](mailto:GJ1@nyu.edu)

**Kelly Margaret**

Secretary/Treasurer, 2016-2017  
[MSKelley@illinois.edu](mailto:MSKelley@illinois.edu)

**Jennifer Cheeseman Day**

Chair-elect, 2016  
[Jennifer.Cheeseman.Day@census.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Cheeseman.Day@census.gov)

**Brian Harris-Kojetin**

Council of Sections Representative, 2016-2018  
[BKojetin@nas.edu](mailto:BKojetin@nas.edu)

**Victoria Velkoff**

Past Chair, 2016  
[Victoria.A.Velkoff@census.gov](mailto:Victoria.A.Velkoff@census.gov)

**Matt Jans**

Publications Officer, 2016  
[MJans@ucla.edu](mailto:MJans@ucla.edu)

**Craig Hill**

Program Chair, 2016  
[CHill@rti.org](mailto:CHill@rti.org)

**Rick Peterson**

Staff Liaison  
[Rick@amstat.org](mailto:Rick@amstat.org)

**Melissa Scopilliti**

Program Chair-elect, 2016  
[Melissa.Scopilliti@census.gov](mailto:Melissa.Scopilliti@census.gov)