GSS/SSS FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

GSS web site: http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/
SSS web site: http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/

GSS Publications Officer: Sonya L. Vartivarian
(SVartivarian@Mathematica-MPR.com)

SSS Publications Officer: Sharon M. Stern
(sharon.m.stern@census.gov)

Newsletter Editor: Carrie R. Simon
(carrie.r.simon@census.gov)

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Don't forget these upcoming events ~~

- **Member Input on Draft of New Strategic Plan for ASA: Feedback due February 15, 2008**
  To leave feedback, visit: http://www.amstat.org/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=strategicplanfeedback

- **Elections for ASA Section Officers Open March 3, 2008**

- **Workshop on Privacy and Security – Artificial Intelligence (PSAI 2008): March 4-7, 2008**

- **Seminar On Survey Respondent Incentives, Research and Practice: March 10, 2008**

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Past Chair reviews the accomplishments of GSS in 2007
By Steve Cohen, Chair, GSS 2007

It is with great pleasure that I write an end of year summary of the highlights accomplished by the Section on Government Statistics. I was honored to take over the helm last January. Leading the section was easy because of the enthusiastic, knowledgeable executive committee and the assistance provided by Monica Clark of the ASA office. They make the job of Chair easy. I believe we had a very successful year.

Below are the highlights of our section:

Communication: Carrie Simon, along with Sharon Stern of the Social Statistics Section, took on the responsibility of production of the monthly electronic newsletter. The newsletter was always chock full of great information about upcoming conferences including agendas in some cases, critical deadlines for abstract/paper submissions, deadlines for submission of award nominees, and general information about the section. Carrie was new to this important activity this year and handled the electronic newsletter like she has been doing it for years. Way to go Carrie!

Bill Wong maintains the website and keeps it up to date on news that affects GSS members and Tai Phan continues to coordinate the GSS listserve.

JSM sessions: Roberta Sangster organized the GSS program at the joint meetings in Salt Lake City. Organizing this year's program was difficult because of the cut back in US Government agency participation due to constraints on agency budgets. We had 4 invited sessions and 2 topic contributed sessions. There were 17 contributed papers which were organized into 2 sessions with three papers appearing in other section's sessions due to the seven paper rule per contributed session. We also had one contributed poster.

International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES III): ICES III was the first conference in recent memory that GSS helped sponsor. Special conferences need seed money and section efforts to be successful, as they do not have the same level of support as ASA budgets for JSM. ICES III was successful with many interesting papers and panels. We expect to put the papers up on the GSS website. Discussion is on going about GSS and other sections becoming permanent sponsors of this valuable conference.

Awards: Our section co-sponsors several awards. Congratulations to this year's recipients: Nancy Kirkendall, recipient of the Herriot Award; Stephanie Shipp, recipient of the Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award; Wendy Alvey, recipient of the Pat Doyle Award; and Romesh Silva, recipient of the Wray Jackson Smith scholarship. The section also gave a stipend to 5 students to attend the JSM along with Social Statistics and Survey Methods Research. The students presented their papers in a session on Sunday at JSM.

Farewells and Welcomes: Again, thanks to an excellent Executive Committee for their contributions in 2007. A special thanks to the members of the Executive Committee who are rotating off this year:

- Roberta Sangster, Program Chair, for organizing excellent sessions for JSM 2006 and 2007.
- Joan Turek, one of our two COPAFS representatives.

Welcome to newly elected Executive Board members during the 2007 elections:

- Robert Lussier, Statistics Canada, Chair Elect 2008
- Sunghee Lee, UCLA Center for Policy and Health, Program Chair Elect 2008

I would like to close by asking you to think about volunteering for the section. Volunteers run the section and activities for you. The section's activities are only as good as the effort volunteers put into the section. I found volunteering a very rewarding experience. I met lots of statisticians from around the country that I would probably have never met without getting involved, not to mention working on interesting issues that move our profession forward.

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Member Input on Draft of New Strategic Plan for ASA

ASA members have the opportunity to provide input on the draft of a new strategic plan for the Association, which has been developed by a task force appointed by President Mary Ellen Bock in April 2007. The plan provides a concise set of high-level objectives and strategies that will guide fundamental decisions made by future ASA presidents and boards.

The members of the task force are Nicholas Fisher (ValueMetrics Australia), Gerald Gates (recently retired from the U. S. Census Bureau), Robert Rodriguez (chair, SAS Institute), Jessica Utts (University of California, Davis), and Ronald Wasserstein (American Statistical Association).

Since May, the task force has obtained input from over 70 stakeholders, including leaders of ASA committees and activities, ASA staff members, student members and recent graduates, past presidents, representatives of other societies, academic department heads, and hiring managers in corporate and government environments. At the same time, ASA

members have been encouraged to provide input through an announcement on the ASA web site, the President's Column in the July issue of *Amstat News*, and the ASA Open Meeting at JSM.

In July, the task force evaluated this information using a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) with assistance from a consultant experienced in strategic planning for nonprofit organizations. The results were then discussed by the ASA board at its July meeting. In October, the task force identified a set of eight strategic issues based on the SWOT analysis and all of the input received up to that point. The task force developed an objective and strategies for each issue, which the chair then presented to the board in a series of webinars.

The outcome is a draft strategic plan. ASA members can provide feedback at http://www.amstat.org/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=strategicplanfeedback. The deadline for comments is February 15, 2008, and adoption of the final plan is expected at the March meeting of the ASA board.

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Introduction to the GSS and SSS Candidates for Election

It's that time of year! The ASA election of officers is fast approaching. The election opens on Monday, March 3 and closes on May 15, 2008. To introduce you to the GSS and SSS candidates for election, we've included a brief bio for each candidate. Be sure to check it out prior to voting.

P.S. The ASA is going green with the 2008 Election. Look for your electronic ballot to be sent via email. Complete bios of each candidate will be available off the ASA website at that time.

The Government Statistics Section would like to announce the following candidates for 2008 election:

Chair Elect:	John S. Dixon
	Michael P. Cohen
Program Chair Elect:	Lisa Blumerman
	Stephen Campbell
Publications Officer:	Michael E. Davern
	Sonya L. Vartivarian
Secretary/Treasurer:	Jacqueline L. Shaffer
	Lester R. Curtin

The Social Statistics Section would like to announce the following candidates for 2008 election:

Chair Elect:	Sharon Stern,
	Kenneth C. Land
Program Chair Elect:	David A. Swanson
	Joseph J. Salvo
Publications Officer:	Carrie R. Simon
	Natalya Verbitsky

========================= Introduction to GSS Officers for Election =========================

GSS Chair Elect

John S. Dixon, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dr. John Dixon is a Statistician for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Dr. Dixon studies nonsampling error in BLS surveys. He enjoys working with other agencies on methods of analysis and sharing results. Dr. Dixon finds organizations like the GSS to be invaluable in providing contacts and sharing research ideas. Dr. Dixon was also the GSS Newsletter Editor from 2001 to 2003.

Michael P. Cohen, NORC

Dr. Michael Cohen retired as a federal government employee in March 2006. His last government position was Assistant Director for Survey Programs of the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics. He headed the Office of Survey Programs with a staff of nine where they had responsibility for various surveys, including the Commodity Flow Survey and the National Household Travel Survey. Dr. Cohen is still in the government sphere, working as a Senior Consultant to NORC at the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Historical Trust Accounting. He works on sampling and estimation for accounts and transactions involving the monies and land held in trust for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Dr. Cohen is also an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University teaching "Statistics for Engineers II" this semester. Dr. Cohen is the current President of the Washington Statistical Society, Chair of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee, and Chair of the ASA Committee of Representatives to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

GSS Program Chair Elect

Lisa M. Blumerman, U.S. Census Bureau

Ms. Lisa Blumerman is currently the Chief of the Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office at the US Census Bureau. In this capacity Ms. Blumerman is responsible building and managing the Census Bureau's stakeholder relationships including working with the Census Bureau's State Data Center, Census Information Center and Governor Liaison's programs. Previously, she has served as the Deputy Chief of the American Community Survey Office, as the Census Bureau's Administrative Records Coordinator, and as the Chief of the Population Estimates Branch. Her research interests are in the areas of statistical policy, population estimates and projections, and survey operations and methodology.

Stephen Campbell, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Mr. Stephen Campbell joined the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in 2001. He currently serves as both an economist for the Impact Analysis Office and as the senior advisor to the director of the Technology Innovation Program, which provides federal funding to organizations doing high-risk R&D with the potential for widespread benefits to the nation. He has served as an economic expert on selection panels to select funded projects and also served as overall chair for the Materials/Chemistry panel during the 2004 competition. Mr. Campbell has worked in developing and analyzing all elements of data collection efforts including surveys of awarded organizations during and post funding, surveys of awardees and non-awardees in selection competitions, and a special survey of research joint ventures. His research has been in the areas of determinants of success in federally funded projects, evaluating the selection process, and examining if federal funding crowds out private investment of R&D. Mr. Campbell has also been involved in establishing a data enclave between NORC and NIST enabling researchers to securely access confidential business micro data. He is a member of the American Economic Association and the American Statistical Association.

GSS Publications Officer

Michael E. Davern, University of Minnesota

Dr. Michael Davern is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management in the School of Public Health, and is Research Director and Co-Principal Investigator of the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC). His research expertise is in survey methods and demographic health data, and in applying these to inform health policy. His survey methods research includes work in non-response, measurement error, imputation, sampling error estimation, weighting, and production of federal survey data, as well as other survey data used for state level policy work. Dr. Davern is currently the program chair for the GSS.

Sonya L. Vartivarian, Mathematica Policy Research

Dr. Sonya L. Vartivarian has been a Statistician at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., since she completed her PhD in Statistics, 2004, at the University of Michigan. Previous positions include**:** Adjunct Faculty, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, 2006; Graduate Student Research Fellow and Student Instructor at the University of Michigan. Her fields of major statistical activities are missing data in sample surveys and analysis of data from complex surveys. Selected publications are: "Does Weighting for Nonresponse Increase the Variance of Survey Means?" Survey Methodology, December 2005 (with R.J.A. Little); "On Weighting the Rates in Non-Response Weights." Statistics in Medicine, 2003 (with R.J.A. Little); and "On the Formation of Weighting Adjustment Cells for Unit Nonresponse." Proceedings of the American Statistical Association, Survey Research Methods Section, 2002 (with R.J.A. Little). Dr. Vartivarian is professionally active as a member of ASA Government Statistics, Social Statistics and Survey Research Methods sections and as a Washington Statistical Society member. She is currently the Publication Officer for the Government Statistics Section. Dr. Vartivarian is also an Associate Editor, Journal of Official Statistics, and has

refereed for the Journal of Official Statistics and Survey Methodology. She has served the Caucus for Women in Statistics as Representative-at-Large, 2005.

GSS Secretary/Treasurer

Jacqueline L. Shaffer, Ohlone College

Ms. Jacqueline Shaffer is an Adjunct professor in the Mathematics Department at Ohlone College (Fremont, CA). As the Mathematics Adjunct professor at Ohlone College, Ms. Shaffer teaches about 40 college students introductory statistics using Microsoft Excel for use in their future careers in the business or social sciences. She helps them understand the concept of statistics using many types of examples from various disciplines. Ms. Shaffer is a member of ASA's Committee on Statistics and Disability, a member of San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of ASA, and a member of the GSS and ASA's Educational Section.

Lester R. Curtin, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Dr. Lester Curtin has been with the Federal government for over 29 years. He is a senior statistician with the Division of Health Examination Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is also currently serving as an advisor to NIH on the sample design for the National Children's Study. Dr. Curtin was the Federal project officer for the development of the SUDAAN (SUrvey DAta ANalysis) software. He is currently involved in sample design and analytic issues for the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), including sample selection, sample weighting, non-response adjustment, confidentiality aspects of micro-data, variance estimation, analytic methods for missing data, and analytic methods for sparse data. He has contributed to the development of the CDC Growth Charts, the CDC Environmental Report Card and the NHANES Analytic Guidelines. He has also served on several expert panels for HRSA, the National Science Foundation, the CDC review panel on design and estimation issues for HIV surveillance activities, and NIH Grant Review Panels. He is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

========================= **Introduction to SSS Officers for Election** ==========================

SSS Chair Elect

Sharon M. Stern, U.S. Census Bureau

Ms. Sharon M. Stern is the Chief of the Poverty and Health Statistics Branch at the U.S. Census Bureau. Sharon's branch produces several critical well-being statistics for the population of the United States, among them the official poverty rate based on the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). As part of ongoing review and analysis of the poverty, health insurance, and disability data from the U.S. Census Bureau's major national household surveys, Ms. Stern has written or coauthored several recent evaluations and working papers examining the impact of methodology on subject specific estimates, including a comparison of poverty from the CPS ASEC to the American Community Survey (ACS) and the evaluation of disability from the ACS 2006 Content Test. She has also been involved in developing experimental methods to value housing subsidies in a measure of poverty and applying new methods to geographically adjust the poverty thresholds. Ms. Stern is the current ASA Social Statistics Section Publication Officer.

Kenneth C. Land, Duke University

Dr. Kenneth C. Land is the John Franklin Crowell Professor of Sociology and Demography at Duke University. Dr. Land is well known for his research on statistical and demographic models and methods, including the estimation and application of multistate life tables, finite mixture models for the analysis of latent trajectories of events and attributes across the life course, and the analysis of age, period, and cohort effects. Dr. Land also is known for numerous substantive contributions to demography, criminology, and social indicators research. He currently is Project Director for the Child and Youth Well-Being Index Project, which produces annual reports on changes in the overall well-being of children and youth in the United States and it various components. Dr. Land was Publications Officer of the Social Statistics Section 1987-89 and served as Associate Editor of *JASA-Applications and Case Studies* from 1989 to 2006. Dr. Land currently serves as Editor of *Demography*.

SSS Program Chair Elect

David A. Swanson, University of California, Riverside

Dr. David A. Swanson is Professor of Sociology and Interim Director, Blakeley Center for Sustainable Suburban Development, University of California Riverside. Primarily, Dr. Swanson works in applied demography, especially small area population estimation and forecasting. With Jeff Tayman and others, he has worked on ways to measure estimation and forecast error that reduce the effect of outliers while incorporating the information they provide. A theoretical basis for this work is provided in a forthcoming article in the Journal of Economic and Social measurement that is co-authored with Chuck Coleman (US Census Bureau), "On MAPE-R as a Measure of Cross-Sectional Estimation and Forecast

Accuracy." Currently, he serves as a member of the U. S. Census Bureau's Advisory Committee for Professional Associations. He has also worked in the area of teaching statistics and has presented papers at the JSM and ICOTS meetings and published several articles on this topic.

Joseph J. Salvo, New York City Department of City Planning

Dr. Joseph J. Salvo is Director of the Population Division at the New York City Department of City Planning. The Population Division serves as the city's in-house demographic consultant, providing expertise for a whole host of applications involving assessments of need, program planning and targeting, and policy formulation. This includes the development of population estimates and projections for infrastructure and capital planning. The Division is working closely with the Census Bureau on the technical preparations for the 2010 Census and, most recently, evaluation of the new American Community Survey. Dr. Salvo's most recent publications are in the areas of decennial census issues, survey methods, and the residential settlement of immigrants. This includes The Newest New Yorkers: 2000, co-authored with Arun Peter Lobo, and work as an editor and author for the Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census. He recently served on the National Research Council Panel on the Functionality and Usability of Data from the American Community Survey. Dr. Salvo received M.A. and PhD degrees in sociology from Fordham University. He is a recipient of the Sloan Public Service Award from the Fund for the City of New York and is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

SSS Publications Officer

Carrie R. Simon, U.S. Census Bureau

Carrie Simon is a Congressional Liaison at the US Census Bureau. Prior to her work on congressional issues, she worked on the American Community Survey, where she gained valuable experience in the realm of survey content and data collection methods. Ms. Simon also has experience with statistical policy. While working in the Census Bureau's Policy Office, she delved into issues of privacy and confidentiality in relation to administrative records use. Ms. Simon is currently the Newsletter Editor for the Government Statistics Section.

Natalya Verbitsky, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Dr. Natalya Verbitsky is a Statistician at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) in Washington, DC. Dr. Verbitsky is also an instructor for the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research at the University of Michigan and a reviewer for the American Journal of Sociology. Her research focuses on issues of causal inference and statistical modeling in clustered settings, including designing and implementing impact evaluation studies of education and health-related policies. Prior to working at MPR, Dr. Verbitsky was a visiting scholar at the University of Chicago and a statistical consultant for the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan. She received her degree in Statistics from the University of Michigan in 2007.

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Seminar On Survey Respondent Incentives, Research and Practice: March 10, 2008

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) announces an upcoming seminar on survey respondent incentives to be held in Washington, DC at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel. For those interested, the program and registration information follow.

Program

8:45-9:00   **Welcome and Introduction**
           Edward Spar, COPAFS
           Hermann Habermann, Consultant

9:00-10:30   **Session 1: A Public-Private Sector Overview**
           Moderator: Edward Spar, COPAFS
                 1. Incentives in Federal Surveys
                     Brian Harris-Kojetin, Office of Statistical Policy, OMB
                     Diane Willimack, U.S. Census Bureau
                 2. Academic and Other Investigator-Initiated Grants
                     Sandra Berry, RAND Corporation
                 3. Surveys In the Private Sector
                     Barbara O'Hare, The Arbitron Company

10:30-11:00   Break

11:00-12:00   **Session 2: Part One, A Panel Discussion**
           Moderator: Michael Link, Nielsen Media Research
           Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How Do We Pay
                 David Cantor, Westat
                 Richard Kulka, Abt Associates
                 Eleanor Singer, University of Michigan
                 Paul Lavrakas, Consultant
                 Alison Ackermann, Abt Associates, Rapporteur
                 Diane Willimack, U.S. Census Bureau, Rapporteur

12:00-1:30   Lunch

1:30-2:30   **Session 2: Part Two, Panel and Floor Discussion**

2:30-3:00   Break

3:00-4:30   **Session 3: Integrating the Day and Personal Perspectives**
           Moderator: Judie Mopsik, Abt Associates
                 Robert Groves, University of Michigan
                 Daniel Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research
                 Jennifer Madans, National Center for Health Statistics
                 Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Registration

To register for the seminar, visit: <http://members.aol.com/copafs/REGISTRATIONFORM.htm>. The registration fee is $125. For further information/questions regarding registration, contact Edward Spar or Lee Ann Sklar at: 703-836-0404 or copafs@aol.com. Note that hotel reservations at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel are available by calling 202-484-1000.

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2008 JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD: MARCH 28, 2008 DEADLINE

On receiving the Roger Herriot Award in June 2001, Jeanne E. Griffith said: "One of the most rewarding aspects (of Federal statistics) for me was the opportunity to promote creative activities and energies among my staff…When I have had the blessing to mentor young people in their careers, I have tried to emphasize…(that) only they, themselves, can make the most of (the)…chances that life presents."

Dr. Griffith 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.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award has been established to encourage mentoring of junior staff in the Federal statistical system. It is presented annually to a supervisor who is nominated by co-workers and supervisors, and chosen by the Award Selection Committee.

The award is co-sponsored by the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, the Council for Excellence in Government, the Washington Statistical Society, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics.

Nominations for 2008 will be accepted beginning in January 2008. The last date for submission of nominations is March 28, 2008, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 9, 2008. 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 2008.

The winning mentor 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.

Past Award Winners include:
2003 Rich Allen
2004 Beth A. Kilss
2005 Renee Miller
2006 Martin O'Connell
2007 Stephanie Shipp

For further information on the award, contact Ed Spar, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) by phone: 703-836-0404; fax: 703-836-0406; or by e-mail at copafs@aol.com**. The nomination cover sheet and guidelines form-or a photocopy of it-should be attached to a nomination memorandum or letter. Forms can be obtained by contacting Ed Spar, or by downloading from the COPAFS website at** http://www.copafs.org**. All nominations should be returned to the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee, c/o COPAFS, 2121 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314 no later than March 28, 2008.**

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2008 ROGER HERRIOT AWARD: APRIL 1, 2008 DEADLINE

Nominations are now sought for the 2008 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics.

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 who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs. The award is meant 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 (from entry to senior), Federal employees, private sector employees, and employees of the academic community, may be nominated on the basis of the significance of the specific contribution.

The recipient of the 2008 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee of representatives of the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association and a representative of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with and strongly supportive of these organizations during his career. The award consists of an honorarium and a framed citation.

Past Award Winners:
1995 Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
1996 Monroe Sirken (NCHS)
1997 Constance Citro (CNStat)
1998 Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS)
1999 Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat)
2000 Donald Dillman (Washington State University)
2001 Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)
2002 Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau)
2003 David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
2004 Paula Schneider (Census Bureau)
2005 Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau)
2006 Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS)
2007 Nancy Kirkendall (DOE)
2008 Nominations due April 1, 2008

Nominations for 2008 must be submitted by April 1, 2008. Chair of the 2008 Herriot Award Committee is Brian Harris-Kojetin bharrisk@omb.eop.gov. Electronic submissions are permissible.

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2008 WRAY JACKSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP: APRIL 15, 2008 DEADLINE
Support for Work Towards a Career in Government Statistics

The Government Statistics Section (GSS) and the Social Statistics Section (SSS) 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.

Type of Project

The WJSS Award provides funding of $1,000 for use in exploring any of a broad number of opportunities for furthering the development of a career related to government statistics. Applicants are encouraged to be creative in seeking support for a wide variety of uses, including:

- Tuition, board, and books for courses or short courses

- Conference attendance

- Purchase of books, software, data sets, or other supporting materials for research projects related to government statistics.

Activities may relate to any level of government, including Federal, state, and local governmental units. They must be statistical in nature, focusing on data, methodology, analysis, or data presentation. Recent award winners have used the WJSS to fund attendance at the Joint Statistical Meetings, support continued public policy research, and to take short courses to better understand and analyze data for current research.

Application

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.

To apply for a WJSS Award, the following information must be sent to the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee by **April 15, 2008**:

- A completed WJSS Application Form (available at http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp08.doc for a MS Word version or http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp08.pdf for an Adobe pdf version)

- A proposal of activity to be funded

- 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

- Two letters of recommendation.

Please send materials to:

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee
c/o Michael P. Cohen
1615 Q Street NW #T-1
Washington DC 20009-6310 USA

or electronically to: *mpcohen@juno.com*.

Selection Process

The WJSS Committee, consisting of a total of three GSS and SSS members, will review each proposal, based on an established rating scheme, and select the awardees. Each application will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Stage in Career

- Past Performance

- Quality of the Proposed Activity

- Relevance of Activity to Government Statistics

- Innovation/Ingenuity of the Proposed Project

- Feasibility of Completion of Activity

- Two Letters of Recommendation

Announcements of the awardees will be made by June 1, 2008. All applicants will be notified by e-mail.

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Workshop on Privacy and Security - Artificial Intelligence (PSAI 2008)

Barcelona, Spain, March 4-7, 2008
Submitted by Steve Cohen

http://crises-deim.urv.cat/psai/

I. AIMS AND SCOPE

In this workshop, we aim to convene researchers in the areas of Security, Data Privacy and Artificial Intelligence. We seek to collect the most recent advances in artificial intelligence techniques (i.e. neural networks, fuzzy systems, multi-agent systems, genetic algorithms, image analysis, clustering, etc.), which are applied to the protection of privacy and security.

Individual privacy protection is a hot topic and it must be addressed to guarantee the proper evolution of a modern society based on the Information and Communication Techniques (ICTs). However, security policies could invade individual privacy, especially after the appearance of the new forms of terrorism. These two concepts (i.e. security and privacy) are somehow opposite because, most of the time, security is achieved by means of privacy invasion.

Statistical agencies and the like are collecting large amounts of personal information that has to be protected before its publication. Different forms of evolutionary computation and clustering have been proposed to tackle this problem. Moreover, the protection of critical infrastructures such as airports has invigorated the study of more efficient techniques for pattern recognition, image analysis, etc.

This workshop will consider all the artificial intelligence techniques that are used to address these problems. It will be focused on real applications and theoretical contributions. The workshop will be held in conjunction with ARES 2008.

II. TOPICS COVERED

- Statistical Disclosure Control
- Location-based services
- Statistical databases

- Pattern recognition
- Image analysis
- Evolutionary computation

- Homeland security
- Robotics
- Cryptography and security protocols
- Intrusion detection systems
- Denial of service attacks
- Neural networks
- Multi-agent systems
- Clustering
- Case-based reasoning
- Fuzzy logic

III. MORE INFORMATION

For more information, see the conference web site at <http://crises-deim.urv.cat/psai/>.

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Privacy In Statistical Databases 2008 (PSD 2008) - Call for Papers
Istanbul, Turkey, Sep. 24-26, 2008
Submitted by Steve Cohen

http://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat/psd2008

I. AIMS AND GOALS

Privacy in statistical databases is about finding tradeoffs to the tension between the increasing societal and economical demand for accurate information and the legal and ethical obligation to protect the privacy of individuals and enterprises (which are the respondents providing the statistical data). The motivation for respondent privacy is one of survival for statistical databases: statistical agencies or survey institutes cannot expect to collect accurate information from individual or corporate respondents unless they feel the privacy of their responses is guaranteed.

Beyond respondent privacy, there are two additional privacy dimensions to be considered: privacy for the data owners (organizations owning or gathering the database, who wouldn't like to share the data they have collected at great expense) and privacy for the users (those who submit queries to the database and would like their analyses to stay private).

"Privacy in Statistical Databases 2008" (PSD 2008) is a conference sponsored and organized by the UNESCO Chair in Data Privacy (http://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat) and the CONSOLIDER ARES project (http://crises-deim.urv.cat/ares), with proceedings published by Springer-Verlag in Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Its purpose is to gather world-wide, high-level research in statistical database privacy. PSD 2008 is a successor to PSD 2006 (Rome, Dec. 13-15, 2006, http://crises-deim.urv.cat/psd2006) and PSD 2004 (Barcelona, June 9-11, 2004, http://crises-deim.urv.cat/psd2004), both with proceedings published by Springer in LNCS 4302 and LNCS 3050, respectively.

Those three PSD conferences follow a tradition of high-quality technical conferences on Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) which started with "Statistical Data Protection-SDP'98", held in Lisbon in 1998, with proceedings published by OPOCE. It continued with the AMRADS project SDC Workshop, held in Luxemburg in 2001, with proceedings published in Springer LNCS vol. 2316.

Like the aforementioned preceding conferences, PSD 2008 originates in Europe, but wishes to stay a worldwide event in database privacy and SDC. Thus, contributions and attendees from overseas are welcome.

II. ORGANIZATION

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

John Abowd (Cornell University and Census Bureau, USA); Elisa Bertino (CERIAS, Purdue University, USA); Jordi Castro (Polytechnical University of Catalonia); Lawrence Cox (Nat. Center for Health Statistics, USA); Josep Domingo-Ferrer (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Mark Elliot (Manchester University, UK); Elena Ferrari (University of Insubria, Italy); Stephen Fienberg (Carnegie Mellon University, USA); Luisa Franconi (ISTAT, Italy); Sarah Giessing (Destatis, Germany); Anco Hundepool (Statistics Netherlands); Ramayya Krishnan (Carnegie Mellon University, USA); Julia Lane (NORC/University of Chicago, USA); Jane Longhurst (Office for National Statistics, UK); Bradley Malin (Vanderbilt

University, USA); Josep M. Mateo-Sanz (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Krish Muralidhar (University of Kentucky, USA); Silvia Polettini (University of Naples, Italy); Yosef Rinott (Hebrew University, Israel); Gerd Ronning (University of Tuebingen, Germany); Juan Jose Salazar (University of La Laguna, Spain); Maria Joao Santos (EUROSTAT); Yucel Saygin (Sabanci University, Turkey); Eric Schulte-Nordholt (Statistics Netherlands); Francesc Sebe (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Natalie Shlomo (University of Southampton, UK); Julian Stander (University of Plymouth, UK); Vicenc Torra (IIIA-CSIC, Catalonia); William E. Winkler (Census Bureau, USA); and Laura Zayatz (Census Bureau, USA).

PROGRAM CHAIR

Josep Domingo-Ferrer (UNESCO Chair in Data Privacy, Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia)

GENERAL CHAIR

Yucel Saygin (Sabanci University, Turkey)

III. TOPICS OF INTEREST

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- New SDC methods for tabular data
- New SDC methods for microdata
- Best SDC practices for tabular data
- Best SDC practices for microdata
- Balancing data quality and data confidentiality in SDC
- Onsite access centers
- Remote access facilities
- SDC software
- Estimating disclosure risk in SDC
- Record linkage methods
- Real-life disclosure scenarios in EU-member states and abroad
- Privacy preserving data mining
- Private information retrieval
- Privacy in web-based e-commerce
- Privacy in healthcare
- Privacy in official and corporate statistics

IV. IMPORTANT DATES

Submission deadline: May 25, 2008
Acceptance notification: June 27, 2008
Proceedings version due: July 11, 2008
Conference: September 24-26, 2008

CD-only submission deadline: July 15, 2008; CD-only acceptance notification: July 31, 2008; CD-only proceedings version due: Aug. 10, 2008.

V. SUBMISSIONS, VENUE, REGISTRATION, etcetera.

For information on submissions, proceedings, registration, and other information see:
<http://unescoprivacychair.urv.cat/psd2008>.

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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

Carol C. House
Chair, 2008
carol_house@nass.usda.gov

Robert Lussier
Chair-Elect, 2008
robert.lussier@statcan.ca

Stephen Cohen
Past-Chair, 2008
scohen@nsf.gov

Michael E. Davern
Program Chair, 2008
daver004@umn.edu

Sunghee Lee
Program Chair-Elect, 2008
slee9@ucla.edu

Lester R. Curtin
Secretary/Treasurer, 2007-08
lrc2@cdc.gov

Carolee Bush
Council of Sections Rep, 2007-09
cbush2000@aol.com

Sonya Vartivarian
Publications Officer, 2007-08
SVartivarian@mathematica-mpr.com

Chet Bowie
COPAFS Rep, 2007-08
bowie-chet@norc.org

Stephanie Shipp
COPAFS Rep, 2008-09
stephanie.shipp@nist.gov

Carrie R. Simon
Newsletter Editor
carrie.r.simon@census.gov

Bill Wong
Assistant Editor, *Amstat Online*
william.wong@irs.gov

Tai Phan
GSSLIST Coordinator
tai.phan@ed.gov

Monica Clark
ASA Ex Officio
monica@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

Linda Gage
Chair, 2008
Linda.Gage@dof.ca.gov

Allen L. Schirm
Chair-Elect, 2008
aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com

Jennifer H. Madans
Past-Chair, 2008
Jennifer.madans@cdc.hhs.gov

Jana L. Asher
Program Chair, 2008
jana@asher-resnick.us

Kathleen S. O'Connor
Program Chair-Elect, 2008
kdo7@cdc.gov

Dawn Haines
Secretary/Treasurer 2008-09
dawn.e.haines@census.gov

Daniel Weinberg
Council of Sections Rep, 2007-09
Daniel.H.Weinberg@census.gov

Sharon M. Stern
Publications Officer, 2007-08
sharon.m.stern@census.gov

Monica D. Clark
Staff Liaison
monica@amstat.org