

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

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 28, 2010</b> | 2011 Waksberg Award Nomination Deadline                                              |
| <b>Spring 2010</b>       |                                                                                      |
| <b>March 26</b>          | Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Nomination Deadline                               |
| <b>April 1</b>           | Roger Herriot Award Nomination Deadline                                              |
| <b>April 9</b>           | Statistical Research & Methodology Section Student Travel Award Competition Deadline |
| <b>April 15</b>          | 2010 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Application Deadline                             |

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PLANNING FOR JSM 2010: ANNOUNCING THE STATISTICAL RESEARCH & METHODOLOGY SECTION'S 2010 STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD COMPETITION **NEW!**

Submitted by Dawn Haines, Chair, Student Travel Award Committee, Statistical Research & Methodology Section, Treasurer, 2009-2010

The Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association will repeat its successful Student Travel Award Competition in 2010. This initiative encourages students to gain exposure to opportunities in survey research methods and to become familiar with the section and its work.

Up to two travel awards of \$750 each will be awarded to graduate students to attend the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information, see the application located at www.amstat.org/sections/srms/travelapp_2010.pdf.

The application and supporting documents are due **no later than April 9, 2010**.

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## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 2009 COPAFS MEETING: COPAFS FOCUSES ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES NEW!**

*Submitted by Stephanie Shipp, ASA Representative to COPAFS for 2008-2009 and Stephen Cohen, ASA Representative to COPAFS for 2009-2010*

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) is comprised of the membership of 60 organizations, including professional organizations, business, research institutes, and others interested in federal statistics. As a member of COPAFS, the ASA has two representatives from the Government Statistics Section who attend the quarterly COPAFS meeting and report back to the ASA membership. Highlights of the December 4, 2009 meeting held at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) follow.

COPAFS Executive Director Ed Spar noted that the government is still running on a continuing resolution, and no one knows when the budgets will be finalized. Expectations are that the Census Bureau will continue to receive anomalies to flat funding, but budgets for other agencies are still up in the air.

BLS is in the process of looking at a possible redesign of the Consumer Expenditure Survey, and COPAFS has been asked to put on a two-day workshop on the topic. The last redesign dates back to about the early 1980s, and the process would be lengthy, so BLS is not rushing into this. Spar will keep COPAFS members posted on the progress of the survey's redesign.

Spar then described an issue under consideration with respect to the Demographic Analysis (DA) measure of census coverage. Initial plans were to report the components of census coverage (persons missed and duplications) only for the national and regional levels. At recent meeting of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee, Spar and others made the case for reporting the component measures for states. The DA project is on target to report results by the end of next year, and COPAFS is putting on a workshop on the topic.

Turning to the American Community Survey (ACS), the first 5-year data are due in 2010. However, these data will be weighted to estimates based on the 2000 census, while the next set of 5-year estimates (released in 2011) will be controlled to estimates based on the 2010 census. There is concern with the inconsistencies the first set will have with the 2010 census, and the discontinuities with the second set (exacerbated by the transition to 2010 geography), so discussions are in progress at Census on how to best handle these releases.

Spar reported that the redesign of the COPAFS website is moving along. The COPAFS meeting dates for 2010 are March 5, June 4, September 24, and December 3.

Ataman Ozyildirim announced the upcoming CIRET Conference to be held in New York on October 16, 2010. More information can be found on the COPAFS web site at [www.copafs.org](http://www.copafs.org)

## **Data.gov Initiative**

Paul Bugg, Office of Statistical and Science Policy, OMB, described Data.gov (launched in March 2009) as a flagship initiative reflecting the administration's commitment to transparency and open government. The basic ideas are that the free flow of information between government and the public is essential to a

democratic society, and that the public's ability discover and understand information is of broad social benefit.

An early question from the audience, concerned how data.gov relates to Fedstats, and Bugg explained that Data.gov has a broader scope – going beyond federal data, and enabling users to search across agencies by topic. One could, for example, search on “household income,” to identify income data provided by various agencies. Bugg also explained that the current platform, or website, is just a first step – a base from which the Data.gov system will evolve.

A key objective of Data.gov is to assist in finding and using government data. There are currently over 24,000 “dot-gov” websites, and one often needs to understand the government's organizational structure to find datasets of interest. Furthermore, data are not always downloadable from legacy systems with outdated technology. Data.gov is designed to transcend stovepipes, and encourage innovative applications by enabling access to data in formats that can be analyzed.

In response to a question on who is responsible for Data.gov, Bugg stressed that it is not OMB – although he attributed its origin to OMB's Chief Information Officer, who joined OMB recently from the DC government. Data.gov can be thought of as a set of links providing easier access to data that are already available. Responsibility for confidentiality rests with the agencies that collect and report the data, and the originating agencies need to be aware of any implications of wider access through Data.gov.

Data.gov defines raw data as machine readable structured datasets that can be used for multiple purposes, and “mashed-up” with other data (combined on the fly by a wide range of users). Some attendees expressed confusion with the definition. There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on such issues through the Federal Register and a notice on Data.gov.

Data.gov prefers data in formats such as XML, CSF/TXT, and RSS, and prefers not to post data in PDF nor HTML tables containing data. As a matter of policy, agencies retain control of their data, provide metadata, and again, need to be aware of the implications of broad access through Data.gov.

Bugg described a senior advisory group that provides OMB with a forum for working with those responsible for data generation and dissemination, and which provides advice on strategic and other issues. The advisory group consists primarily of federal entities (such as the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy), and does not include any data user groups.

### **National Survey of Residential Care Facilities**

Lauren Harris-Kojetin, from the National Center for Health Statistics, explained that the National Survey of Residential Care Facilities (NSRCF) has two major government partners – the Department of Health and Human Services (NCHS and other HHS agencies) and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Its goals are to provide general purpose national level data to support decision making, and to fill a significant gap in the collection of data on providers of long-term care. The survey will estimate the size of the residential care industry, as well as the characteristics of both the facilities and the residents who live in them.

The NSRCF defines residential care facilities as places that are (1) licensed, registered, or otherwise regulated by the state; (2) have at least four beds; and (3) provide room and board (at least two meals per day), help with personal care or health care-related services (such as medication management), and around the clock on site supervision for a primarily adult population. Facilities licensed to serve only the mentally ill, or mentally retarded/developmentally disabled populations are excluded, as are nursing homes, which are different in that they provide skilled nursing services 24/7. Harris-Kojetin noted that there is no single definition that applies across all states, and that states license such facilities under terms such as assisted living, board and care, congregate care, family care and personal care.

The survey is needed because the aging population has increased the need for long-term care services, little is known about these facilities, and current surveys are designed for other purposes. Harris-Kojetin

noted that the number of residentials served by these facilities may rival the number of nursing home residents.

The survey consists of a screener, a facility questionnaire, a resident sampling questionnaire, and a resident questionnaire. The sample uses a two-stage national probability design, with facilities sampled first, then residents within the facility. The goal is to sample 2,250 facilities and 8,450 residents. The survey starts with telephone eligibility screening, followed by CAPI interviews conducted in person. The facility questionnaire is conducted with the facility administrator, and the resident questionnaire is conducted with staff members knowledgeable about selected residents (such as a nurse aide or floor supervisor). The residents themselves are not interviewed.

Harris-Kojetin described a pretest, and the response rates it experienced (without attempts to reverse refusal). Reasons for refusal included inability to contact the facility director, the director/staff's lack of time, lack of interest, or corporate refusal (some facilities are part of a chain). Harris-Kojetin described outreach activities including meetings with the Center for Excellence in Assisted Living (CEAL), an association of associations related to the assisted living industry. CEAL board members have provided insights into contact materials, and are promoting participation in the survey – for example, through a joint letter sent in advance, communicating industry support for the survey.

Harris-Kojetin described a number of other measures taken to gain cooperation. She also noted that the NSRCF averages about two and a half hours to three and a half hours to administer depending on facility size.. Once facilities agree to participate in the survey, few drop out. Getting initial agreement is the challenge. The low dropout rate may be due in part to the pre-interview worksheet that is sent to help facilities prepare for the interviews. The worksheet ensures there are no major surprises in the interview process, and reduces the sense of respondent burden.

The upcoming NSRCF schedule is as follows:

|                     |                                                                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 29, 2010    | OMB approval sought by this date                                        |
| March-April, 2010   | Training                                                                |
| March-October, 2010 | Facility recruitment                                                    |
| April-October, 2010 | Data Collection                                                         |
| Early 2010          | Public use files, methods report, and release of first findings product |

### **Who Creates Jobs? Small vs. Large vs. Young?**

Ron Jarmin, from the U.S. Census Bureau, noted the persistence of the debate over the extent to which small businesses are responsible for job creation, and reported research on the subject (completed in collaboration with John Haltiwanger of the University of Maryland and Javier Meranda of the Census Bureau). Their work is funded in part by the Kauffman Foundation.

There are two camps in the debate – those who contend that most new jobs are created by small businesses, and those who argue that this is not true. Jarmin suggested there is some truth in both positions, and he presented data from a longitudinal (1992-2005) database of private sector non-farm business establishments with firm identifiers. The data noted not just the size of businesses, but their age. Size was constructed by aggregating establishment employment numbers to firm totals, and firm age was defined as the age of the oldest establishment at the time of firm birth. Spin offs from existing businesses were not treated as new, or start up, businesses.

If one looks only at firm size, most new jobs are in small businesses, but Jarmin's work stresses the contribution of firm births, or "startups" to job growth, and the distinction between gross and net job creation. As he described it, there is a huge churn in firms and jobs, and an "up or out" dynamic for young businesses. Many young businesses fail, but those that survive contribute to dynamic growth.

A key to Jarmin's analysis is the relationship between firm size and age. New or startup firms tend to be small, while larger firms tend to be older. When one controls for the age of firms, there is a positive relationship between firm size and job growth.

Looking at data for 2005, Jarmin noted that among the largest firms the biggest job gains were from the oldest firms, while among the smallest firms most growth was among the youngest. This makes sense since startups (businesses in their first year) cannot lose jobs (relative to previous year). Moreover, due to a large number of startups in the course of a year, small firms account for a large number of new jobs. Among small firms, job growth was greatest during the start-up year, with the number of jobs added dropping sharply in years two and beyond. Again, there is an “up or out” dynamic, with the failure of many new businesses resulting in the “destruction” of many of the new jobs that they contributed. Again, one can contrast the gross versus net creation of new jobs.

Jarmin then described the challenge of “picking winners,” or establishing policies to promote job growth. While startups and surviving young firms contribute disproportionately to job growth, idiosyncratic factors seem to dominate in the determination of which ones survive – factors that are not observable or predictable for policy purposes.

Jarmin concluded with the suggestion that we need a more nuanced view of small businesses and their contribution to job creation. It is not just the size of businesses that matters, but their age that matters. Another issue is the quality of jobs; Jarmin noted that we need to look beyond the simple counting of new jobs to the kinds of jobs that are being produced by younger firms, the kinds of workers in these jobs, and the long term labor market outcomes.

#### **Local Employment Dynamics: Synthetic Data for OnTheMap Version 4**

Jeremy Wu, of the U.S. Census Bureau, described OnTheMap as an online dynamic mapping and reporting tool for the Census Bureau’s Local Employment Dynamics (LED) data. He also gave an overview of the integrated, synthetic data underlying the product.

The first OnTheMap release was in 2006, covering 14 states with data covering 2002-2003. The product has grown through successive releases, with the next scheduled for December 14, 2009, covering 47 states and data for 2002-2008. A December 2010 release will cover 47+ states with data for 2002-2009.

OnTheMap allows one to select where workers live, or where they work, and report characteristics such as age, earnings, and cross-state flows. The base unit is the census block, and the product features innovative disclosure protection. Wu showed a screenshot of a Las Vegas area map shaded by where construction/manufacturing workers are employed, and side by side maps, with one showing workers in blocks near “The Strip,” and the other expanding to show where those workers live. Data tables are presented with the maps, and while the examples illustrated census blocks, one could show data by other geographies, such as ZIP Codes or Traffic Analysis Zones.

Turning to the data, Wu noted that censuses date back to ancient Rome and China, but sampling was first discussed in 1895. Even then, the idea was not well received, even among statisticians, who clung to the notion that there was no substitute for a complete count. The debate went on for decades, and it was not until 1937 that the Census Bureau developed sampling techniques to measure unemployment during the Depression. Sampling was then introduced to the decennial censuses – starting with 1940 – and other surveys, such as the Current Population Survey, and now the American Community Survey.

With the introduction of sampling, it became clear that a 5 percent random sample is better than a 5 percent non-random sample, and the field of mathematical statistics was born. But Wu noted that the field of sample surveys has not lived happily ever after, as computers and administrative records databases have released a flood of data, and surveys are increasingly hampered by declining response rates, increasing labor costs, and confidentiality concerns. As recently as the 1990s, there was concern that we could either have access to microdata or confidentiality protection, but not both.

However, Wu described an LED approach that provides both with a design that involves record linkages, noise infusion, imputation, synthetic data modeling, and measures of goodness and quality. A slide

diagramming how the synthetic data are prepared conveys its complexity. With the workplace/residence data comprising an origin/destination matrix for 8 million census blocks (8 million times 8 million), the underlying database is huge.

Wu described OnTheMap and its data innovation as the latest development in the evolution dating back to the first discussions of sampling in 1895. It took decades for sampling to be accepted, and he expressed the hope that it will not take so long for this innovation to become accepted and widely used. Might this be the dawning of another new field of statistical knowledge?

Asked if these data have yet been accepted for academic research, Wu noted that academic researchers have been involved in their development, but the data are not yet widely used. There was agreement that more formal measures of goodness and quality are needed for the data to become more widely accepted in academic research.

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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).

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](mailto:monica@amstat.org), (703) 302-1860, and **Beth Kilss** at [bakilss@msn.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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**

*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 Joint 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](mailto:Stephen.Campbell@nist.gov).

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PLANNING FOR JSM 2010: GSS POSTER COMPETITION

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.

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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2010 GSS CORPORATE SPONSORS

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2011 GSS CORPORATE SPONSORS

Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS), National Science Foundation (NSF)

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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