GSS/SSS March 2006 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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Government Statistics Section

PARAST RECEIVES 2005 WRAY JACKSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP - NOMINATIONS FOR 2006 AWARD SOUGHT
By Bob Groves

Wray Jackson Smith, D.Sc, was a trustee and president of the Harris Smith Institutes of Arlington, Virginia, a nonprofit research foundation and a senior statistical advisor at Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., where he had worked since 1986. Dr. Smith also held a number of technical/scientific senior executive positions in Federal agencies and retired from the Federal Government in 1983 as Director of the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration and as Assistant Administrator for Energy Systems and Support. After his sudden death in May 2000 the Section on Government Statistics of the American Statistical Association, together with the Section on Social Statistics, the Washington Statistical Society, the Caucus for Women in Statistics, the Harris-Smith Institutes, Mathematica Policy Research, and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc. established a scholarship in his memory. The scholarship is awarded annually to one outstanding applicant in order to further his or her career in government statistics.

Layla Parast, an undergraduate at the University of Texas, Austin, received the 2005 Wray Jackson Smith Fellowship. She is now a graduate student in statistics at Stanford University. When asked how she used the fellowship money, she recently replied, "The fellowship check went straight to fall quarter tuition at Stanford. Last quarter I took Theory of Probability with Dr. Persi Diaconis, Intro to Computing with Dr. Eric Roberts and Functions of a Real Variable with Dr.Tai-ping Lui. This quarter I am taking Intro to Stochastic Processes and Intro to Statistical Inference, both with Dr. Romano and Multivariate Analysis with Dr. Owen. … I really love Stanford! Last quarter was extremely difficult but then again I would be a little skeptical if it had been easy."

Past Recipients

> **Dr. Jennifer Park** was the recipient of the 2004 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship.
> Dr. Park used the scholarship to attend a December 2004 course in sampling design taught by Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James Lepkowski through the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM). She also enhanced her collection of statistical reference books, particularly those regarding estimation of effect size.
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> **Yun Li** was the recipient of the WJSS in 2003. She was a student in the Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research, where she completed her Master's degree. Ms. Li used the WJSS scholarship to fund continued public policy research at the Bowling Green State University Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service. Her work was presented at the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio.
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> **Amelia Haviland** was the recipient of the WJSS in 2002. She was a student at Carnegie Mellon University and used the scholarship to attend a short course on non-sampling error and the Joint Statistical Meetings in 2002.

New Nominations Sought

Nominations are now sought for the 2006 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship. The 2006 recipient of the scholarship will be chosen by a committee of representatives of the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (Bob Groves, committee chair, Juanita Tamayo Lott and Michael P. Cohen). Dr. Smith was associated with and strongly supportive of these organizations during his career. The scholarship of $1,000.00 can be used for activities like the following:

1. Attendance at a conference, short course, or long course.
2. Travel to a conference.
3. Purchase of government data.
4. Costs associated with research.

Please note the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Eligibility Requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree or equivalent.
2. Participation in the advancement of government statistics, whether as a government employee, researcher under government contract or using government statistics, or student involved with government statistics.

To apply, you will need to complete and submit the following which can be found at http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsann06.htm:

1. The original copy of an application.
2. Original transcripts, performance reviews, or alternate proof of superior job.
3. Project proposal.
4. Two reference letters.

For more information, contact Robert M. Groves, Chair of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee, 202-484-4215 or BGroves@isr.umich.edu. **All necessary materials must be submitted by April 1, 2006.** Electronic submissions are permissible.

All materials should be mailed before April 1, 2006, to:

Robert M. Groves
Survey Research Center
University of Michigan
426 Thompson Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

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Social Statistics Section

SUPPORTING YOUR SECTION IN THE 2006 ELECTIONS: WE NEED YOUR VOTE!
Susan Schechter, 2006 Section Chair

This month's *Amstat News* focuses on the upcoming 2006 Elections. In addition to the slate for the ASA Board of Directors, you will see a slate for the Social Statistics Section. I thought I would devote this month's column to describing and highlighting the process we use to develop our slate of candidates and to share with you some information about our past voting record.

Selecting Candidates
Each fall, the Social Statistics Section Chair-elect works with the current Chair and the past Chair to develop a slate comprised of two names for each position. Individuals can volunteer to run, can be nominated by others, or are directly solicited by those responsible for developing the slate. The good news with this process is that it is relatively easy to be considered for a board position. The downside though, is that if we don't hear from volunteers or receive nominations, we have to 'encourage' individuals whom we know to be willing to run. This can result in a smaller group of our members being considered for board positions. However, I was surprised and delighted to learn that our section has almost 800 members! Thus, we do have a large pool of potential candidates from which to draw. Since it is important that our board represent our full membership to the greatest extent possible, please consider volunteering to run next fall for a position or to nominate one of your colleagues.

Casting Your Vote
This year's Social Statistics Section slate includes outstanding candidates for **2008 Chair, 2008 Program Chair, 2007-2008 Publications Officer,** and **2007-2008 Council of Sections Representative.**   Please take the time to vote for both the ASA Board of Directors as well as for the Social Statistics Section candidates.   In 2005, slightly more than 25 percent of our section's members participated in the election of our officers, but I know we can do better. And to make it easy for you, ASA is offering the option to vote by paper ballot or online (instructions for voting online will be on the paper ballot and online at www.amstat.org). Voting will be open to members March 15-May 15, 2006, and during the election process, you will be able to view the candidate's biographies and photos through the ASA website. Paper ballots will be mailed to all members by March 15.

Supporting Your Section and Your Association
The election of officers for our section and our association is an important responsibility. I take it seriously and I hope you will, too. I also hope by shedding a little light on the process you will be encouraged to vote – either online or by paper ballot during the window of opportunity. So, I encourage you to review the slate of candidates shown elsewhere in this month's issue of *Amstat News* and to vote! Your vote counts! And we're counting on you.

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PLANNING AHEAD FOR SOCIAL STATISTICS SESSIONS IN 2007

Now that the dust has settled on submitting abstracts for JSM 2006, it not too early to be thinking about topics for **Invited Sessions for JSM 2007**. We'll have more information for you about planning for 2007 in the coming months, but in the meantime, if you have any thoughts or suggestions, contact **Allen Schirm, Program Chair 2007 (aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com).**

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SOC FELLOWS COMMITTEE REQUEST

Dear Social Statistics Section member:

The Social Statistics Section (SOC) is seeking your collaboration in improving the selection of ASA Fellows. The section has set up the SOC Fellows Committee to facilitate the nomination of SOC members as Fellows of ASA. As you know, the actual selection of Fellows is carried out by a central ASA Fellows Committee. Thus, the purpose of our section's committee is to identify worthy candidates and provide help in putting together the nomination package for the candidates. In a few cases, a SOC Committee member will prepare the nomination package; in most cases, the SOC Committee will attempt to identify a lead nominator and, then, advise and/or provide editorial assistance.

The three members of the 2006 SOC Fellows Committee are Colm O'Muircheartaigh (chair), colm@uchicago.edu; Dan Weinberg, daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov; and John Thompson, thompson-john@norc.org.

Please get in touch with any or all of them with your suggestions. All the committee's activities will be kept confidential. If you make a nomination, a brief (or lengthy) indication of the basis for the nomination would be appreciated.

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HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are being sought for the **2006 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 agencies, other government organizations, nonprofits, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2006 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 an honorarium and a framed citation.

Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics), Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences), Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (U.S. Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau), and Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau) are previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award.

For more information, contact: Lawrence Cox, Chair, Roger Herriot Award Committee, (301) 458-4631 or *LCox@CDC.Gov.* There are no fixed requirements for the contents or format of nomination packages, but completed packages must be received by **May 1, 2006.** Electronic submissions to Dr. Cox in MS-Word or PDF format are encouraged.

Alternately, nominations may be mailed to: Lawrence H. Cox, National Center for Health Statistics, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 3211, Hyattsville, MD 20782

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2006 JULIUS SHISKIN AWARD

Nominations are invited for the annual **Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics.** The Award is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of information technology techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. The Award was established in 1980 by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and is now cosponsored by the WSS, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association.   The 2005 award recipient was Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia, in recognition of his path-breaking economic theoretical innovations, notably in index number theory, which have been adapted to improve national economic statistics around the world.

Nominations for the 2006 award are now being accepted.   Individuals or groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated.   The award will be presented with an honorarium of $750 plus additional recognition from the sponsors. A nomination form and a list of all previous recipients are available on the ASA Website at :
< *www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html* > or by writing to the Julius Shiskin Award Committee, Attn: Monica Clark, American Statistical Association, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3402.

Completed nominations must be **received by April 1, 2006.** For further information contact Rich Allen, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, at < *reisepaar2@earthlink.net* >*.*

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THE JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award has been established to encourage mentoring of younger staff in the Federal statistical system. It is presented annually, beginning in 2003, 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 2006 will be accepted beginning in **February 2006.** The last date for submission of nominations is **March 31, 2006**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 1, 2006. 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 2006.

The winning mentor will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of younger 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.

For further information on the award, contact:

Ed Spar, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) by phone: 703-836-0404; fax: 703-684-3410; 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, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 **no later than March 31, 2006.**

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THE GERTRUDE COX SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN IN GRADUATE STATISTICS PROGRAMS

Sponsored by: The ASA Committee on Women in Statistics and the Caucus for Women in Statistics

Purpose: To encourage more women to enter statistically oriented professions

How much: $1,000

When: Application deadline is **April 1, 2006**
Award announced in August 2006 at the Joint Statistical Meeting

Who: Women who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States or Canada and who are admitted to full-time study in a graduate statistics program by July 1, 2006. Women in or entering the early stages of graduate training (M.S. or Ph.D.) are especially encouraged to apply.

Application: To get your Gertrude Cox Scholarship application form: Download form from - _http://www.amstat.org/awards/index.cfm?fuseaction=cox-scholarship_, or receive the form by mail or email – send your request to Chair, Gertrude Cox Scholarship Committee.

For more information: Contact Holly B. Shulman, M.S., Chair Gertrude Cox Scholarship Committee, 205 College Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081. Phone: (610) 690-0861; email: _hbsl@cdc.gov_.

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PRIVACY IN STATISTICAL DATABASES'2006 (PSD'2006) -- CALL FOR PAPERS

Rome, Italy, Dec. 13-15, 2006

http://vneumann.etse.urv.es/psd2006

1. 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 source of the statistical data. To put it bluntly, statistical agencies cannot expect to collect accurate information from individual or corporate respondents unless these feel the privacy of their responses is guaranteed; also, recent surveys of web users show that a majority of these are unwilling to provide data to a web site unless they know that privacy protection measures are in place.

"Privacy in Statistical Databases'2006" (PSD'2006) is the main conference of the CENEX-SDC project funded by Eurostat and will be used to raise the awareness of SDC in Europe and beyond. PSD'2006 is regarded as a successor of PSD'2004 (http://vneumann.etse.urv.es/psd2004), the final conference of the CASC project (IST-2000-25069), held in Barcelona on June 9-11, 2004, and with proceedings published in Springer LNCS vol. 3050. Those two PSD conferences follow a tradition of high-quality technical conferences on SDC which started with "Statistical Data Protection-SDP'98," held in Lisbon in 1998 and with proceedings published by OPOCE, and continued with the AMRADS project SDC Workshop, held in Luxemburg in 2001 and with proceedings published in Springer LNCS vol. 2316.

Like the aforementioned preceding conferences, PSD'2006 originates at the EU, but wishes to stay a worldwide event in SDC. Thus, contributions and attendees from overseas are welcome.

2. ORGANIZATION

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

John Abowd (Cornell University and Census Bureau, USA); Jordi Castro (Polytechnical University of Catalonia); Lawrence Cox (Nat. Center for Health Statistics, USA); Ramesh Dandekar (Energy Information Administration, USA); Josep Domingo-Ferrer (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Mark Elliot (Manchester University, UK); Luisa Franconi (ISTAT, Italy); Sarah Giessing (Destatis, Germany); Jobst Heitzig (Destatis, Germany); Anco Hundepool (Statistics Netherlands); Ramayya Krishnan (Carnegie Mellon University, USA); Julia Lane (National Science Foundation, USA); Jane Longhurst (Office for National Statistics, UK); Silvia Polettini (University of Naples, Italy); Gerd Ronning (University of Tuebingen, Germany); Juan Jose Salazar (University of La Laguna, Spain); Maria Joao Santos (EUROSTAT); Eric Schulte-Nordholt (Statistics Netherlands); Francesc Sebe (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Chris Skinner (University of Southampton, UK); Julian Stander (University of Plymouth, UK); Vicenc Torra (IIIA-CSIC, Catalonia); William E. Winkler (Census Bureau, USA)

PROGRAM CHAIR -- Josep Domingo-Ferrer (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia)

GENERAL CHAIR -- Luisa Franconi (ISTAT, Italy)

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Xenia Caruso (ISTAT, Italy); Jordi Castella-Roca (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Maurizio Lucarelli (ISTAT, Italy); Antoni Martinez-Balleste (Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia); Micaela Paciello (ISTAT, Italy)

3. 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
- 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
- Privacy in web-based e-commerce
- Privacy in healthcare
- Privacy in official and corporate statistics

4. SUBMISSIONS

Both original technical contributions and high-quality surveys on the above topics or on related topics are sought. A submission should be clearly marked either as an original paper or a survey. Submissions should contain a cover letter indicating:
1) whether the submission is a survey or an original contribution;
2) the title of the submission;
3) keywords classifying the paper topic;
4) the names and affiliations of authors;
5) the e-mail, telephone and facsimile numbers of the contact author.
The submission itself should be sent as an attached PDF file. Submission and their cover letters should be sent to:
psd2006@urv.net .

Camera-ready versions of accepted papers should be prepared using the LaTeX2e style or the Word template of Springer Verlag Lecture Notes in Computer Science. For LaTeX2e, a macro package (llncs.zip) and an example file (typeinst.zip) can be downloaded from http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,10735,5-164-2-72376-0,00.html

For Microsoft Word, a template (word.zip) can be downloaded from the same page above.

We encourage authors to use the above formats already for their submissions.

LENGTH OF SUBMISSIONS

Using the above format with 11 point font, the paper should be at most 12 pages excluding bibliography and appendices, and at most 16 pages total. Committee members are not required to read appendices; the paper should be intelligible without them. Submissions not meeting these guidelines risk rejection without consideration of their merits.

5. PROCEEDINGS

Among PSD'2006 accepted papers, a selection will be made based on quality and coverage and the selected papers will be published in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) series by Springer. This follows the tradition of PSD'2004 (LNCS 3050) and the AMRADS Workshop on SDC (LNCS 2316). The remaining accepted papers will be published in a CD with an ISBN. It is possible to submit a paper directly for the CD, which benefits from a later submission deadline (see CD-only dates below).

The form of publication of an accepted paper will be clearly specified in the acceptance message. Both the LNCS volume and the CD will be *available at the conference*.

6. IMPORTANT DATES

Submission deadline: **June 30, 2006**
Acceptance notification: **July 31, 2006**
Proceedings version due: **September 1, 2006**
Conference: **December 13-15, 2006**.

CD-only submission deadline: **Sep. 25, 2006;** CD-only acceptance notification: **October 10, 2006;** CD-only proceedings version due: **October 25, 2006**

7. VENUE, TRAVEL, AND REGISTRATION

The conference will take place on **December 13-15, 2006,** at the ISTAT headquarters, Via C. Balbo 14, 00184 Rome.

Travel, accommodation, and registration information will be posted at http://vneumann.etse.urv.es/psd2006.

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ANNOUNCING THE 23RD INTERNATIONAL METHODOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES IN MEASURING POPULATION HEALTH
Who: Organized by Statistics Canada
When: November 1 - 3, 2006
Where: Chateau Cartier, Gatineau, Quebec

For more information, send e-mail inquiries to _symposium2006@statcan.ca_ , or contact Milorad Kovacevic by phone at 613-951-9891 or by e-mail at _Milorad.Kovacevic@statcan.ca_ .

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Government Statistics Section
Mission Statement

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

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Social Statistics Section
Mission Statement

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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