

**GSS/SSS March 2007 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](mailto:SVartivarian@Mathematica-MPR.com))

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

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

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Introducing the GSS Newsletter Editor
- What is APDU?
- Happy 50th Anniversary, National Health Interview Survey
- DC-APPOR Workshop on Nonresponse Bias in Household Surveys
- JPSM Distinguished Lecture
- Start Thinking About JSM 2008 Invited Sessions
- Award Nominations Sought:
  - Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award
  - Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics
  - Roger Herriot Award
  - Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship
- Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III) – Early Bird Registration

**Don't forget these deadlines ~~**

- **FCSM Call for Papers:** See website for details: <http://www.fcsn.gov/events>  
Deadline: March 8, 2007
- **NHIS Poster Contest:** See website for details: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis/nhis\\_fifty.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis/nhis_fifty.htm)  
Deadline: March 15, 2007
- **ICES-III Early Bird Registration:** See website for details: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/index.cfm>  
Deadline: March 29, 2007

**Award Nominations Sought:** See website for details: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>

- **Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award:** Contact: Ed Spar at COPAFS ([copafs@aol.com](mailto:copafs@aol.com))  
Deadline: March 30, 2007
- **Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics:** See website for details:  
[http://www.amstat.org/sections/bus\\_econ/shiskin.html](http://www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html)  
Deadline: April 1, 2007
- **Roger Herriot Award:** Contact: Daniel Weinberg ([Daniel.H.Weinberg@census.gov](mailto:Daniel.H.Weinberg@census.gov))  
Deadline: April 1, 2007
- **Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship:** Contact: Juanita Tamayo Lott ([Juanita.T.Lott@census.gov](mailto:Juanita.T.Lott@census.gov))  
Deadline: April 15, 2007

~~~~~

## Welcome to Carrie Simon, Government Statistics Section Newsletter Editor

*By Stephen Cohen, GSS Chair*

We are very pleased to introduce and welcome Carrie Simon as the incoming GSS Newsletter Editor. She is working together with Sharon Stern, Social Statistics Section Publications Officer, in pulling together the joint GSS/SSS Newsletters. Carrie and Sharon have already begun their partnership, as this current issue is their first joint Newsletter production. Carrie is a demographer with the US Census Bureau. She currently works on the American Community Survey (ACS), and is involved with survey content, mail collection, and telephone follow-up. Prior to joining the ACS, Carrie worked in the Policy Office where she delved into issues of privacy and confidentiality in relation to administrative records use. Carrie is currently taking part in the Department of Commerce's Aspiring Leaders Development Program. Carrie looks forward to working on the GSS/SSS Newsletter and learning more about each of the Sections. Welcome, Carrie!

~~~~~

## Government Statistics Section

### What is APDU?

*By Leonard M. Gaines, President, The Association of Public Data Users*

The Association of Public Data Users (APDU) is a national network that links users, producers and disseminators of federally produced statistical data. We share a vital concern about the collection, dissemination, preservation, and interpretation of public data. APDU's members include a mix of data producers, data users, and data intermediaries.

Personally, I find that my ASA membership and being one of my employer's representatives to APDU compliment each other. My ASA membership provides me with many opportunities for personal professional development and interaction with statisticians working on a wide range of contexts. My employer's APDU membership, on the other hand, keeps me much more informed about issues affecting the federal data that I use daily as part of my job. Our APDU membership also allows us to educate policymakers, the public, the media, and other members about the importance of public data, its use, the need to preserve it, and how to find it. The rest of this article describes what APDU does and how its work compliments the services and programs of the American Statistical Association.

### APDU's purpose

APDU was formed about 30 years ago partly to increase access to and knowledge about the federal government's electronic statistical data. Over the years, access to electronic data has certainly become easier, but there are new challenges for data users. One such challenge is the increasing use of the Internet to create profiles and small data extracts on the fly, which, while improving access for the casual data user, might also make access to the larger extracts or to complete datasets needed by more sophisticated analysts difficult, if not impossible.

While the Internet and other developments have increased access to public data, they have also raised some red flags that, in turn, work to reduce the amount of data available to most data users. The largest red flag is the possibility of disclosure of information about individuals by users combining publicly available statistical data with publicly available personal data to find out even more about specific individuals. This has led federal agencies to suppress more data before releasing public data products. APDU works to make data producers more aware of how their decisions on suppression methods affect data users. Our goal is to work with data producers to satisfy the public's need for as much and as accurate data about their communities as possible, while protecting against disclosure of personally identifiable information.

There are other issues affecting the federal statistical system that never seem to go away. These include maintaining adequate funding for the many data series that our members use. For example, in early January we sent a letter to the members of the congressional Appropriations Committees, explaining the consequences of inadequate Census Bureau funding levels under Continuing Funding Resolutions for the cost and usefulness of the data from the 2010 Census and other Census Bureau programs.

APDU stays abreast of and informs our members about proposed changes to federal statistical policies and their potential implications for data users. We also advise federal agencies about how proposed changes would affect data users – both the improvements and the problems the changes are likely to create.

Along with keeping our members aware of changes in federal statistical policies that may affect them, we keep our members informed about new federal data products and services. We also let our members know about new resources that will help them improve their understanding of federal data.

Through all of this, APDU is working to maintain and further improve the already high quality data currently produced by the federal government.

### **Who is involved with APDU?**

APDU's members represent the full mix of organizations involved with the federal statistical system. Our 80 member organizations include federal statistical agencies, libraries, think-tanks, value-added data distributors, consultants, state and local government agencies, media associations, direct users of the data and similar organizations.

### **What does APDU actually do?**

APDU provides a number of services and benefits to its members. These include an annual conference, a newsletter, a voice in Washington, and a network of people with different perspectives who are knowledgeable about a variety of data issues.

Our annual conference is usually held in the Washington, DC area during October. We try to cover a range of data-related topics and to provide a significant amount of time for networking. To get a flavor of the topics that interest our members, you simply can look at the range of sessions presented during our 2006 conference. One session focused on OMB's process of reviewing federal information collection requests and how data users can find out what new information is being collected by the federal government. Another session provided a comparison between the way income is measured and reported by different federal agencies. We also heard about different ways data users have influenced the data being collected by federal agencies. Two sessions looked at new, innovative data sources and emerging methods of collecting data. The American Community Survey session examined the status of the survey's product releases, future plans, funding, and user reactions to the data products. The last session of our conference looked at the status of the 2010 Census plans and controversies.

We issue a newsletter about ten times a year, focusing on current developments related to federally-produced data, such as individual agency budget situations, the overall federal statistical system, and recent product releases. Additionally, we use e-mail to keep our members informed of breaking developments and opportunities for them to work directly to influence the federal statistical system.

APDU's presence in Washington is accomplished in several different ways. We have a representative on the Decennial Census Advisory Committee, as well as two representatives to COPAFS, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. Through these representatives, our members can stay aware of trends and current events in the federal statistical system and have a means of communicating their concerns to the statistical agencies and other federal data stakeholders.

APDU also works to inform the nation's policy and opinion leaders about the collective concerns of federal data users. We have sent letters to the President, members of congressional committees, and administration officials. For example, the APDU Board of Directors recently conveyed its position that the next Census Bureau director should be someone who is respected by the professional data community and has a clear understanding of the needs of data users. We also wrote to members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, asking them to provide full funding for the Census Bureau as soon as possible to avoid the adverse consequences on 2010 Census data quality and the cost that would result from reduced or delayed funding.

### **Getting Involved**

There are several ways you can get involved with APDU. First, if your employer is already an APDU member, you can see about being designated as a representative. (Each organizational member is automatically allowed to have three representatives and can register additional representatives at a greatly reduced dues rate.) Representation would provide you:

- Monthly newsletters
- Ability to communicate with our e-mail list, perhaps in a search for elusive data
- Access to members-only features of our website, including our membership directory
- Reduced fees for APDU conferences
- A voice in APDU elections.

If your employer is not an APDU member yet, you can encourage your agency, business, or institution to become a member (just \$375 for up to 3 representatives). This is a great way to keep informed about and influence data developments throughout the federal statistical system.

Regardless of whether your employer is an APDU member, you are welcome to attend our annual conference. However, if your employer is a member of APDU, you can attend the conference for a lower registration fee.

If you are interested in learning more about APDU, please visit our web site ([www.apdu.org](http://www.apdu.org)).

~~~~~

### **Happy 50th Anniversary, National Health Interview Survey**

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) in 2007; the NHIS has been fielded continuously since 1957. To mark the occasion, NCHS is holding a one-day conference on June 25, 2007 at its home site in Hyattsville, Maryland (in Metropolitan Washington, D.C.). Watch the NHIS Web site for further information on registering for the anniversary celebration: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis/nhis\\_fifty.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis/nhis_fifty.htm)

All past and present users of the NHIS are invited to enter a poster competition. The winners will each receive up to \$1,500 to cover travel expenses to attend the anniversary celebration. To enter the competition, send a description of how you have used NHIS data or analyses successfully to solve a research problem, to evaluate a policy, to teach a class, to write a report, etc. We want to hear how the NHIS has been used, directly or indirectly, to improve public health. We want to hear about projects involving NHIS data or analyses that you have already completed, not projects that you are planning. Any productive use of the NHIS over its 50-year lifespan is appropriate.

Your submission should be in text form (not in poster form) and no more than three pages long. You may include supporting documents (e.g., reprints of journal articles) without counting them toward the three-page limit. Each competition winner will work with the NCHS Publications staff to develop and produce a poster, at no cost to the competition winner. The 10 posters will be presented by the competition winners at the anniversary celebration.

Please send your competition entries to Brenda LaRochelle (contact information below) by post or e-mail. Please feel free to contact Brenda if you have any questions. Entries must be received by March 15, 2007, and winners will be announced on April 1, 2007.

Brenda LaRochelle  
3311 Toledo Road, room 2210  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782  
Phone: 301-458-4686  
E-mail: [BLaRochelle@cdc.gov](mailto:BLaRochelle@cdc.gov)

~~~~~

### **The Washington-Baltimore Chapter of the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Workshop on Nonresponse Bias in Household Surveys**

The DC-AAPOR Workshop will take place March 30, 2007 from 9:00am-5:00pm, at the Kaiser Family Foundation, located at 1330 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20005. The workshop is co-sponsored by: SRBI, Westat, and the Washington Statistical Society (WSS).

The principal goal of this workshop is to address questions such as:

- Do lower response rates inevitably lead to nonresponse bias?
- Given increasing survey costs and increasing nonresponse rates, are probability samples becoming obsolete?
- Who are the respondents who are missed by today's surveys, how much does it matter, and what should we do about it?

The workshop is based on the special issue of Public Opinion Quarterly, published in January 2007. The special issue of POQ, edited by Eleanor Singer, focuses on issues that are currently occupying center stage among survey researchers. As response rates to surveys continue to decline, questions about the impact of such a decline on survey estimates assume increasing importance. Contributing authors from the special issue of POQ will summarize findings from the articles and present up-to-date information on their research in these areas.

One of the workshop's feature presentations takes a closer look at the relationship between nonresponse rates and nonresponse bias, suggests various ways in which nonresponse can lead to biased survey estimates, and offers practical suggestions for coping with them.

Other workshop presentations deal with related issues:

- Identifying those who are missed by surveys with specific design features
- Estimating nonresponse bias and adjusting survey estimates for nonresponse
- Asking whether there is a tradeoff between response rates and response quality
- Whether the Do Not Call Registry has helped or hurt telephone survey response rates

Nonresponse has preoccupied survey researchers for at least 15 years. This workshop, which will feature the most up-to-date theory and research relevant to the topic, is essential for survey practitioners and survey methodologists.

See ([www.dc-aapor.org/nrworkshop.php](http://www.dc-aapor.org/nrworkshop.php)) for agenda and registration information.

~~~~~

### **JPSM Distinguished Lecture**

JPSM is sponsoring a Distinguished Lecture by Roderick J. Little on Friday, April 13. The title is "Wait! Should We Use the Survey Weights to Weight?" The talk will begin at 3:30 pm at 2205 Lefrak Hall on the University of Maryland, College Park Campus. There will be a reception immediately afterwards. The lecture will discuss the use of weights in survey inference. A fundamental idea in survey sampling is to weight cases by the inverse of their probabilities of inclusion, when deriving survey inferences. The weight indicates the number of population units the included case represents, and thus can be seen as a fundamental feature of the design-based survey inference. Modelers, on the other hand, seem more ambivalent about weighting, and argue that (at least in some settings) weighting is unnecessary. Dr. Little will discuss various perspectives and myths about survey weights. He will argue that, from a robust Bayesian perspective, weights are a key feature of the data that cannot be ignored, but weighting may not be the best way to use them.

Dr. Little is Richard D. Remington Collegiate Professor and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, where he is also Professor of Statistics and Research Professor in the Institute for Social Research. Prior to that, he held faculty appointments at the University of California at Los Angeles and University of Chicago, an ASA/Census/NSF research fellowship at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and non-academic positions at the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the World Fertility Survey. He was Coordinating and Applications Editor of the Journal of the American Statistical Association from 1992-1994. Actively interested in federal statistical issues such as census undercount, he has served as a member of the Committee on National Statistics and a number of other National Research Council committees. In 2005, he was awarded the American Statistical Association's Wilks Medal, and gave the President's Invited Address at the Joint Statistical Meetings. He has over 150 publications, notably on methods for the analysis of data with missing values and model-based survey inference, and the application of statistics to diverse scientific areas, including medicine, demography, economics, psychiatry, aging, and the environment.

There will be two discussants-John Eltinge from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Richard Valliant from the JPSM faculty. Please join us on the 13th. The talk is open to the public, but please let us know you are coming by sending a note to Rupa Jethwa Eapen at [RJEapen@survey.umd.edu](mailto:RJEapen@survey.umd.edu).

~~~~~

## Start Thinking About JSM 2008 Invited Sessions

Please start thinking about GSS and SSS Invited Sessions for the 2008 JSM meeting in Denver. Submissions will be due sometime in June or July of 2007. The GSS and SSS memberships are doing a great variety of innovative things and now is the opportunity to organize a session to let everyone know about it at JSM in 2008. The guidelines from the JSM web site say that "Invited sessions are **110 minutes in length**, can take a variety of formats, and **typically include from two to six participants**." GSS and SSS will each receive an allocated number of invited sessions plus members will have the opportunity to compete for a selected number of open invited sessions to be chosen by the JSM 2008 program committee. Feel free to contact Michael Davern ([daver004@umn.edu](mailto:daver004@umn.edu)) or Jana Asher ([jana@asher-resnick.us](mailto:jana@asher-resnick.us)) for more information.

~~~~~

## Nominations Sought For 2007 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award: March 30, 2007 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 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 2007 will be accepted beginning in February 2007. The last date for submission of nominations is March 30, 2007, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 4, 2007. The award will consist of a \$1000 honorarium and a citation, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2007.

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: 703-836-0406; or e-mail: [copafs@aol.com](mailto: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 30, 2007.

~~~~~

**Nominations Sought for the 2007 Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics: April 1, 2007 Deadline**

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.

Because the program was initiated many years ago, it is little wonder that statisticians and economists often ask, "Who was Julius Shiskin?" At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and earlier served as the Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Chief Economic Statistician and Assistant Director of the Census Bureau. Throughout his career, he was known as an innovator. At Census he was instrumental in developing an electronic computer method for seasonal adjustment. In 1961, he published Signals of Recession and Recovery, which laid the groundwork for the calculation of monthly economic indicators, and he developed the monthly Census report Business Conditions Digest to disseminate them to the public. In 1969, he was appointed Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget where he developed the policies and procedures that govern the release of key economic indicators (Statistical Policy Directive Number 3), and originated a Social Indicators report. In 1973, he was selected to head BLS where he was instrumental in preserving the integrity and independence of the BLS labor force data and directed the most comprehensive revision in the history of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which included a new CPI for all urban consumers.

The award program was established by the Washington Statistical Society to honor and reward others for Shiskin-type innovative professional activities. It recognizes unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of economic statistics in interpreting the economy. The contributions could be in statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of computer techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. Individuals or groups in the public or private sector can be nominated.

The Award will be presented with an honorarium of \$750. The recipient will also be offered the opportunity to present a Washington Statistical Society technical session on a topic of his or her choosing or to receive the award at the Washington Statistical Society Annual dinner in June. The winner also receives a plaque and recognition by the National Association for Business Economic, as well as recognition by the American Statistical Association at the Joint Statistical Meetings.

For further information contact Rich Allen, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, at ([reisepaar2@earthlink.net](mailto:reisepaar2@earthlink.net)).

A nomination form and guidelines in PDF format are available to download from the following Web site:  
[http://www.amstat.org/sections/bus\\_econ/shiskin.html](http://www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html).

The completed nomination packet should be mailed to:

Julius Shiskin Award Committee,  
Attn: Monica Clark,  
American Statistical Association,  
1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3402.

Completed nominations must be received by the ASA office by April 1, 2007. For further information contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, at ([paben.steve@bls.gov](mailto:paben.steve@bls.gov)).

~~~~~

## Roger Herriot Award Nominations Sought: April 1, 2007 Deadline

*By Daniel H Weinberg, Roger Herriot Award Committee*

Nominations are sought for the 2007 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 2007 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 2007. 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), and Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS).

Nominations for the 2007 award will be accepted beginning in February 2007. 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 the 2006 award, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

**For more information, contact Daniel Weinberg, Chair, 2007 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-763-5791 or [Daniel.H.Weinberg@census.gov](mailto:Daniel.H.Weinberg@census.gov).** Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2007. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are encouraged.

Alternately, nominations may be mailed to:  
Dr. Daniel H. Weinberg  
Chief, Center for Economic Statistics  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, DC 20233-6300

~~~~~

## Nominations Sought For 2007 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship: April 15, 2007 Deadline

Nominations are now being sought for the 2007 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship. The award is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence and encourage them to consider a future in government statistics. The 2007 recipient of the scholarship will be chosen by a committee of representatives of the Government Statistics and



Social Statistics Sections (GSS and SSS). Applicants are not required to be members of GSS, SSS or ASA. Dr. Smith was strongly supportive of these organizations during his career and actively mentored younger statisticians. The scholarship of \$1,000.00 can be used for activities like the following:

- Attendance at a conference, short course, or long course
- Travel to a conference
- Purchase of government data
- Costs associated with research

The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Eligibility Requirements include:

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

To apply, you will need to complete and submit the following:

- The original copy of an application (available in MS Word format: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp07.doc> and Adobe pdf format: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp07.pdf>)
- Original transcripts, performance reviews, or alternate proof of superior job performance
- Project proposal
- Two reference letters

For more information, contact Juanita Tamayo Lott, 2007 Chair of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee, 301.763.3127 or [juanita.t.lott@census.gov](mailto:juanita.t.lott@census.gov). The other committee members are Michael P. Cohen and Bob Kominski.

**All necessary materials must be submitted by April 15, 2007.** Electronic submissions are permissible.

All materials should be mailed before April 15, 2007, to:

Juanita Tamayo Lott  
Human Resources Division  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, D.C. 20233-1400

~~~~~

### **ICES-III: The Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys: Focuses on Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions - Early Bird Registration**

ICES-III will take place June 18–21, 2007 in central Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The conference promises to be a stimulating and full examination of the current state of the art for surveying businesses, farms, and institutions. Both the invited and contributed programs cover a spectrum of interesting and applicable subjects.

The invited program includes the following 23 sessions: Steps To Provide Quality Industrial Coding for a Business Register, Surveys of Environmental Protection: Experiences and Challenges, Efficient Use of Administrative Data in Business Surveys Commodity Flow Surveys, Editing & Imputation Strategies to Improve Statistics Using Tax Data, The New Direction of Business Surveys: the Integrated Approach, Advances in Disclosure Protection – Releasing More Business and Farm Data to the Public, Outliers and Influential Observations in Establishment Surveys, Use of Metadata for Establishment Surveys, Targeting Intensive Follow-up of Nonrespondents in Establishment Surveys, Building and Updating Establishment Registries in Developing Countries, The Influences of K.R.W. Brewer on Establishment Surveys, Collecting Data Electronically from Businesses: the Dream and the Reality, Improving Statistics on the Subnational Public Sector, Challenges and Strategies in Implementing Quality Management Programs, A Global Path to Standards in Questionnaire Design, Methods Addressing Agricultural Statistics Issues, Goals and Issues in the Development of the Services Producer Price Index, Getting Response: the Respondent's Perspective, Usage of Linearization Variance Estimators for Survey Estimates, Improving the Measurement of Service Sector Statistics: Challenges and Achievements, Generalized Survey Processing Systems – An Update, and Towards a Better Understanding of the Response Process in Surveys of Businesses and Organizations

Introductory overview lectures cover topics not included in the invited program to fully round out the invited schedule. Early bird registration fees end on March 29, 2007. Fees will increase by \$100.00 after this date along with significant increases in short course fees. Check out the program and register early to save money!! Housing registration through the ICES III web page is also open.

The entire program along with additional information is available on the ICES III web site:  
<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/index.cfm>

~~~~~

## 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

**Stephen Cohen**

Chair, 2007

[cohen.steve@bls.gov](mailto:cohen.steve@bls.gov)

**Carol C. House**

Chair-Elect, 2007

[carol\\_house@nass.usda.gov](mailto:carol_house@nass.usda.gov)

**Stephanie Shipp**

Past-Chair, 2007

[stephanie.shipp@nist.gov](mailto:stephanie.shipp@nist.gov)

**Roberta L. Sangster**

Program Chair, 2007

[sangster\\_r@bls.gov](mailto:sangster_r@bls.gov)

**Michael E. Davern**

Program Chair-Elect, 2007

[daver004@umn.edu](mailto:daver004@umn.edu)

**Lester R. Curtin**

Secretary/Treasurer, 2007-2008

[lrc2@cdc.gov](mailto:lrc2@cdc.gov)

**Carolee Bush**

Council of Sections Rep, 2007-2009

[cbush2000@aol.com](mailto:cbush2000@aol.com)

**Sonya Vartivarian**

Publications Officer, 2007-08

[SVartivarian@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:SVartivarian@mathematica-mpr.com)

**Joan Turek**

COPAFS Rep, 2006-07

[joan.turek@hhs.gov](mailto:joan.turek@hhs.gov)

**Chet Bowie**

COPAFS Rep, 2007-08

[chet\\_bowie@marketstrategies.com](mailto:chet_bowie@marketstrategies.com)

**Carrie R. Simon**

Newsletter Editor

[carrie.r.simon@census.gov](mailto:carrie.r.simon@census.gov)

**Bill Wong**

Assistant Editor, *Amstat* Online

[william.wong@irs.gov](mailto:william.wong@irs.gov)

**Tai Phan**

GSSLIST Coordinator

[tai.phan@ed.gov](mailto:tai.phan@ed.gov)

**Monica Clark**

ASA Ex Officio

[monica@amstat.org](mailto: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

**Jennifer H. Madans**

Chair, 2007

[jennifer.madans@cdc.hhs.gov](mailto:jennifer.madans@cdc.hhs.gov)

**Dawn V. Nelson**

Secretary/Treasurer

[dawn.v.nelson@census.gov](mailto:dawn.v.nelson@census.gov)

**Linda Gage**

Chair-Elect, 2007

[Linda.Gage@dof.ca.gov](mailto:Linda.Gage@dof.ca.gov)

**Daniel Weinberg**

Council of Sections Rep, 2007-2009

[Daniel.H.Weinberg@census.gov](mailto:Daniel.H.Weinberg@census.gov)

**Susan Schechter**

Past-Chair, 2007

[Susan.Schechter.Bortner@census.gov](mailto:Susan.Schechter.Bortner@census.gov)

**Sharon M. Stern**

Publications Officer, 2007-08

[sharon.m.stern@census.gov](mailto:sharon.m.stern@census.gov)

**Allen L. Schirm**

Program Chair, 2007

[aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com)

**Monica D. Clark**

Staff Liaison

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

**Jana L. Asher**

Program Chair-Elect, 2007

[jana@asher-resnick.us](mailto:jana@asher-resnick.us)