

**GSS/SSS March 2009 NEWSLETTER**  
**Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections**  
**American Statistical Association**

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

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

SSS Publications Officer: Carrie Dennis  
([carrie.r.dennis@census.gov](mailto:carrie.r.dennis@census.gov))

Newsletter Editor: Natalya Verbitsky  
([NVerbitsky@Mathematica-MPR.com](mailto:NVerbitsky@Mathematica-MPR.com))

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Upcoming Deadlines and Events
- GSS and SSS Candidates for 2009 Election **NEW!**
- The Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics (JEBS) - Free Online Trial **NEW!**
- Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award - Open for Nominations
- Survey Research Methods Section 2009 Student Travel Award
- Roger Herriot Award - Open for Nominations
- Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research Conference – Call for Papers
- Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

~~~~~  
**Upcoming Deadlines and Events:**

**March 2009**

|    |                                                                                |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 | ASA Election Opens                                                             |
| 27 | Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award—Nomination deadline                            |
| 31 | Survey Research Methods Section 2009 Student Travel Award—Application Deadline |

**April 2009**

|    |                                                                                           |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Roger Herriot Award—Nomination deadline                                                   |
| 10 | Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research Conference—Abstract deadline |
| 15 | Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship—Application deadline                                       |

**May 2009**

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 15 | ASA Election Closes |
|----|---------------------|

  
~~~~~

**GSS and SSS Candidates for 2009 Election **NEW!****

It's that time of the year: the ASA election of officers is fast approaching! The election opens on Monday, March 16, 2009 and closes on Friday, May 15, 2009. The list of candidates for Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections is shown below; brief bios for each candidate will appear in the April issue of this newsletter.

Look for election ballot to be sent via email. For those with email addresses not on file with the ASA, the ballot will be sent by mail.

**The Government Statistics Section would like to announce the following candidates for 2009 election:**

Chair-elect:	Kevin Cecco, Internal Revenue Service Steven Paben, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Program Chair-elect:	Daniel Beckler, USDA, National Agriculture Statistics Service Iris Shimizu, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Council of Sections Representative:	Kennon Copeland, NORC Danna Moore, Washington State University

**The Social Statistics Section would like to announce the following candidates for 2009 election:**

Chair-elect:	Brian Harris-Kojetin, Office of Management and Budget John Thompson, NORC
Program Chair-elect:	Nancy Clusen, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. Dan Cork, Committee on National Statistics
Secretary/Treasurer:	Amy O'Hara, U.S. Census Bureau Kirsten West, U.S. Census Bureau
Council of Sections Representative:	Susan Hinkins, NORC Robert Santos, Urban Institute

~~~~~

**The Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics (JEBS) - Free Online Trial NEW!**

The Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics (JEBS) is jointly sponsored by the American Statistical Association and the American Educational Research Association. As an ASA member, you can subscribe to JEBS for only \$25. And from now through May, you can sample JEBS content online for free. All you have to do is register using a link below and you will have free online access through May 31, 2009, to all JEBS issues back to 1999.

Each quarterly issue of JEBS offers original statistical methods useful for the applied statistician working in educational or behavioral research, new methods of analysis, and critical reviews of current practice, tutorial presentations of less well-known methods, and novel applications of already known methods. And beginning this year, JEBS will increase in size to publish even more important statistics research. Go to <https://online.sagepub.com/cgi/register?registration=JEBSAmstat2009> to register to try JEBS at no cost. Then when you are ready to buy a member subscription, visit the ASA website at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org).

~~~~~

**Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award - Open for Nominations**

*Submitted by Carol House, Past Chair of the Government Statistics Section*

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring award is intended to encourage the mentoring of junior staff in the Federal statistical community. It is co-sponsored by the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section, the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, the Council for Excellence in Government, the Washington Statistical Society, and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. It is awarded annually to a supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of the Federal statistical staff who is nominated by co-workers and supervisors, and chosen by the Award Selection Committee. 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 2009.

**Guidelines:**

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 statistical community in development of their careers.
- Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.
- See GSS website for more details (<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>).

**Deadline:**

All nominations should be mailed or emailed no later than March 27, 2009. Please send to:  
 The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee  
 c/o Monica Clark  
 The American Statistical Association  
 732 N. Washington Street  
 Alexandria, VA 22314-1943  
[monica@amstat.org](mailto:monica@amstat.org)

Please note the updated contact information!

~~~~~

**Survey Research Methods Section 2009 Student Travel Award**

*Submitted by Dawn E. Haines, Chair of Student Travel Award Committee and SRMS Treasurer, 2009-2010*

The Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) of the American Statistical Association offers a Student Travel Award for students in doctoral programs in statistics, survey methodology, or allied disciplines. Support is offered for students to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings, to be held this year in Washington, DC, August 1 to August 6, 2009.

Preference is given to students presenting a paper or poster at the conference. In addition, applications must be supported by a current member of the SRMS section (see below). Up to 3 awards will be granted to cover expenses up to \$400. Winners are expected to attend JSM sessions and the SRMS mixer on Wednesday night in order to be recognized by SRMS for your award.

**Deadline:**

The application deadline is March 31, 2009. Interested students can find the application at [www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/travelapp\\_2009.pdf](http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/travelapp_2009.pdf)

~~~~~

**Roger Herriot Award - Open for Nominations**

*Submitted by Dwight Brock, Chair Roger Herriot Award Committee*

Nominations are sought for the 2009 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, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2009 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 \$1000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical

Meetings in August 2009. 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) and Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau).

Nominations for the 2009 award will be accepted beginning in February 2009. 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 document how each contribution demonstrates innovation.
- 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 2008 award, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

**Deadline:**

Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2009. For more information, contact Dwight Brock, Chair, 2009 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-517-4026 or [dwightbrock@westat.com](mailto:dwightbrock@westat.com). 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.

~~~~~  
**Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research Conference – Call for Papers**

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is planning a research conference to be held at the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, on November 2-4, 2009. The conference will feature mostly contributed papers with formal discussion and software demonstrations on topics related to a variety of statistical research issues. Papers and demonstrations should address methodology, empirical studies, relevant issues, or needs for statistical research. Papers must be original and not previously published or disseminated. All conference information can be accessed at the FCSM Web site: [www.fcsm.gov/events](http://www.fcsm.gov/events).

**Deadline:**

To submit a paper or demonstration for consideration, submit the abstract online by April 10, 2009. Submit abstracts online at <http://www.fcsm.gov/cgi-bin/conference/submissions>.

**Contact Information:**

To obtain conference information or to be included on the mailing list, contact:

Anna Holaus, Conference Coordinator

Email: [fcsm@census.gov](mailto:fcsm@census.gov)

Phone: 301-763-2308

Fax: 301-763-3682

For questions about abstracts contact:

Dawn E. Haines, Program Chair

Email: [dawn.e.haines@census.gov](mailto:dawn.e.haines@census.gov)

Phone: 301-763-4881

Fax: 301-763-4310

~~~~~

## Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

The Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA) are pleased to announce the availability of a scholarship in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a founding member of the Section and long-time contributor to Federal statistics. The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS), co-sponsored with the Washington Statistical Society, the Caucus for Women in Statistics, Harris-Smith Institutes, Mathematica Policy Research, and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence, thereby encouraging them to consider a future in government statistics.

The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee has selected Kirsten Lum as the 2008 scholarship winner. Kirsten was a student at American University at the time of selection but will be a doctoral student at the George Washington University this fall. This award provides funds for Kirsten's participation in the ENAR/IBS 2009 Spring Meetings in San Antonio, TX. She will be presenting on methods for joint modeling of longitudinal and survival time data. This is joint work with Dr. Rajeshwari Sundaram and Dr. Germaine Buck Louis, both from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). She began working on this project as an intern at NICHD in the summer of 2007. Kirsten is also a presenter at JSM 2008 in Session 267 (Methods for Survival Time Analyses). She will speak on "Joint Model of Longitudinal Binary Data with Discrete Survival Time." Members of the 2008 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee are Michael P. Cohen (chair), Robert A. Kominski, and Stephen L. Campbell.

To apply for a WJSS Award, the following information must be sent to the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2009: (1) a completed WJSS Application Form (available at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp09.doc> for a MS Word version or <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/wjsapp09.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, 2009. 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, 2009!

### Contact Information:

Please send materials to:  
Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee  
c/o Robert A. Kominski  
electronically to: [robert.a.kominski@census.gov](mailto:robert.a.kominski@census.gov).

~~~~~

## 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

**Robert Lussier**

Chair, 2009

[robert.lussier@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:robert.lussier@statcan.gc.ca)

**Sonya Vartivarian**

Publications Officer, 2007-10

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

**John S. Dixon**

Chair-Elect, 2009

[Dixon\\_J@BLS.gov](mailto:Dixon_J@BLS.gov)

**Stephen H. Cohen**

COPAFS Rep, 2009-2010

[scohen@nsf.gov](mailto:scohen@nsf.gov)

**Carol C. House**

Past-Chair, 2009

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

**Stephanie Shipp**

COPAFS Rep, 2008-09

[sshipp@ida.org](mailto:sshipp@ida.org)

**Sunghee Lee**

Program Chair, 2009

[slee9@ucla.edu](mailto:slee9@ucla.edu)

**Natalya Verbitsky**

Newsletter Editor

[NVerbitsky@Mathematica-MPR.com](mailto:NVerbitsky@Mathematica-MPR.com)

**Lisa M. Blumerman**

Program Chair-Elect, 2009

[lisa.m.blumerman@census.gov](mailto:lisa.m.blumerman@census.gov)

**Bill Wong**

Assistant Editor, *Amstat Online*

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

**Lester R. Curtin**

Secretary/Treasurer, 2007-10

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

**Tai Phan**

GSSLIST Coordinator

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

**Carolee Bush**

Council of Sections Rep, 2007-09

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

**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

**Allen L. Schirm**

Chair, 2009

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

**Dawn Haines**

Secretary/Treasurer 2008-09

[dawn.e.haines@census.gov](mailto:dawn.e.haines@census.gov)

**Sharon M. Stern**

Chair-Elect, 2009

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

**Daniel Weinberg**

Council of Sections Rep, 2007-09

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

**Linda Gage**

Past-Chair, 2009

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

**Carrie Dennis**

Publications Officer, 2009-10

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

**Kathleen S. O'Connor**

Program Chair, 2009

[koconnor1@cdc.gov](mailto:koconnor1@cdc.gov)

**Monica D. Clark**

Staff Liaison

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

**Joseph Salvo**

Program Chair-Elect, 2009

[jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov)