

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

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

**March**

15 ASA election opens. Don't forget to vote!!!  
26 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Nomination Deadline

**April**

1 Roger Herriot Award Nomination Deadline  
9 Statistical Research & Methodology Section Student Travel Award Competition Deadline  
15 2010 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Application Deadline

**May**

17 ASA election closes at 11:59 pm (midnight) Pacific Time

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GSS AND SSS CANDIDATES FOR 2010 ELECTION **NEW!**

Submitted by Natalya Verbitsky Savitz, GSS/SSS Newsletter Editor

It's that time of the year: the ASA election of officers is fast approaching! The election **opens on Monday, March 15, 2010 and closes on May 17, 2010 11:59 pm (midnight) Pacific Time**. 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 without email addresses on file with the ASA, the ballot will be sent by mail.

The Government Statistics Section would like to announce the following candidates for 2010 election:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Chair-elect: | Mark Harris, National Agricultural Statistics Service Brian Harris-Kojetin, Office of Management and Budget |
| Program Chair-elect: | Danna Moore, Washington State University Daniell Toth, Bureau of Labor Statistics |
| Secretary/Treasurer: | Kevin Cecco, Internal Revenue Service Brian Meekins, Bureau of Labor Statistics |
| Publications Officer: | Darcy Miller, National Agricultural Statistics Service Sonya Vartivarian, Mathematica Policy Research |

The Social Statistics Section would like to announce the following candidates for 2010 election:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Chair-elect: | Chester Bowie, NORC at the University of Chicago Joseph Salvo, New York City Department of City Planning |
| Program Chair-elect: | Daniel Cork, Committee on National Statistics Elizabeth Stuart, Johns Hopkins University |
| Publications Officer: | Natalya Verbitsky Savitz, Mathematica Policy Research Joanna Turner, U.S. Census Bureau |

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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.

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

*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](http://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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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: MATHEMATICA POLICY RESEARCH IS SEEKING STATISTICIANS NEW!

Submitted by Daniel Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research

Mathematica Policy Research is seeking statisticians to support its survey sampling and statistical analysis activities. Currently we have openings in our Washington, D.C. office and our headquarters in Princeton, NJ. We are seeking statisticians with knowledge and experience in survey sample design and selection (including, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation) or biostatistical methods. The candidate should also have strong oral and written communication skills, the ability to work in an interdisciplinary team, and familiarity with statistical software.

Mathematica is a nationally recognized research organization that conducts social policy studies on health care, disability, education, welfare, nutrition, and related topics. Through our projects and presentations before Congress, federal, state and local governments, foundations, and at professional association conferences, Mathematica strives to improve public well-being by bringing the highest standards of quality, objectivity, and excellence to bear on the provision of information collection and analysis to our clients. Our projects use interdisciplinary teams made up of subject matter specialists, statisticians, data collectors, and systems analysts that span our offices in Washington DC, Princeton NJ, Cambridge MA, Ann Arbor MI, Chicago IL, and Oakland, CA. For more information about our work, please check our website (<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com>).

Qualifications of the position:

- Ph.D. in statistics, biostatistics, or an equivalent combination of education and experience
- Background and experience in sample design and survey methodology or biostatistics
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Knowledge and experience with statistical programming is desirable
- Knowledge and/or experience in one or more of the following areas is desirable: small area estimation, causal inference, hierarchical linear modeling, or experimental (random assignment) and quasi-experimental design

We offer our employees a stimulating, team-oriented work environment, competitive salaries, and a comprehensive benefits package, as well as the advantages of employee ownership. We provide generous paid time off and an on-site fitness center.

Please submit a cover letter, resume, salary requirements and contact information for three references to our employment website at: <https://careers.mathematica-mpr.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=51310>.

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

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor
Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS), National Science Foundation (NSF)
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Statistics of Income Division, Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Social Security Administration

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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