

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

GSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>

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**Government Statistics Section**

**GSS INVITED SESSIONS AT JSM 2006: THE DIVERSITY OF THE GOVERNMENT SPHERE**

By Michael P. Cohen, Program Chair

There will be four GSS invited sessions at the JSM in Seattle, one on each weekday of the meetings.

**Let's begin with Monday.** At 8:30 we have an important session with an international governmental flavor, organized by Jana Asher of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be chaired by Susan Hinkins of NORC, and titled, "Statistics and the Millennium Development Goals."

This is what it is about: "In January of 2005, the United Nations Millennium Project published its report 'Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals.' It concludes that it is reasonable to hope that world poverty can be cut in half by 2015. But the success of the Millennium Development Goals depends on the ability of donor agencies to fund effective programs. For this to occur, appropriate monitoring and evaluation of funded programs must take place, yet such monitoring and evaluation either has not occurred or has not been effective in the past. The purpose of this session is to consider ways in which statistics might contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, through both a review of the monitoring and evaluation of development programs in the past, and also the presentation of possibilities for statistical input into development funding in the future."

David J. Fitch, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, will speak on "A Role for Experimental Evaluation in Efforts to Achieve Millennium Development Goals." Paul Wassenich, Inter-American Development Bank, will talk about "The Role of Monitoring and Evaluation in Development Programs." Paul Fields, Brigham Young University, will present on

“Statisticians and the Millennium Goals.” Fritz J. Scheuren will serve as discussant.

**Turning now to Tuesday afternoon**, at 2:00 we have “Statistical Careers in Government Agencies.” This session was developed with the assistance of our sister section, Social Statistics, who has a companion session that morning on applied statistics careers but not emphasizing the government sector. GSS is grateful to the Social Statistics Section, Juanita Tomayo Lott in particular, for their help and cooperation.

“In keeping with the JSM 2006 theme, ‘Statistics for an Uncertain World: Meeting Global Challenges,’ statisticians in government agencies have extraordinary opportunities to enhance the public’s understanding of, and response to, uncertainties in economics, demographics, agriculture, public health, the physical and engineering sciences, and many other areas. At the same time, government statisticians encounter many components of uncertainty in their own careers arising from changing relationships among government agencies and their stakeholders; the changing nature of statistical science and statistical technology; and changing expectations related to components of uncertainty, risk profiles, and the quality of statistical information. This session will give balanced consideration to some of the ways in which these factors will affect individual statistical careers in government agencies; and some of the ways in which agency management and individual statisticians can respond to these factors.”

Bill Barron, Northrup Grumman Corporation, will talk about “The Continuing Need for, and Value of, Statisticians in the Federal Government.” Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics, will present on the “Recruitment, Training, and Retention of Government Statisticians.” Nell Sedransk, National Institute of Standards and Technology, will speak on “Meeting the Challenges of Science at the Frontiers: Statistics in a Government Science Agency.” John Eltinge, Bureau of Labor Statistics, is the organizer and discussant; Carol House, National Agricultural Statistics Service, will chair.

**Moving on to Wednesday morning** at 10:30, we have the session “Government Statistical Agencies Are Now Offering Electronic Reporting to Their Respondents, But Is It Worth the Effort?” organized and chaired by Robert Lussier, Statistics Canada (and who is, by the way, the GSS Publications Officer). Tom Mesenbourg, Census Bureau, will be the discussant. This session is another one with an international perspective and treats the introduction of new technology.

“Statistical agencies are offering or considering electronic data reporting (EDR) as a means of collecting data from respondents. Some agencies have been fairly aggressive at developing this new mode, especially in Scandinavia and in some other European countries. Other countries have opted to use EDR in a very limited number of survey applications. The objective of this session is to review the approach to electronic reporting put in place in four different countries, including review and minimization of the costs, review of security measures for confidentiality protection (in the sense of are we overdoing it?), strategy for increasing take-up rates, etc. The countries participating are Australia, Finland, Canada and the USA. This session should not be highly technical in nature, but rather will provide an opportunity for sharing policies, thoughts, approaches, strategies, etc.”

Michael Levi, Bureau of Labor Statistics, will present on “Qui Bono: Who Benefits from Web Data Collection.” Toni Räikkönen, Statistics Finland, will talk on “The Experiences of Web Based Data Collection from Enterprises in Finland.” Jocelyn Burgess, Statistics Canada, will present on “Statistics Canada’s Electronic Data Reporting Experience.” Sean Thompson, Australian Bureau of Statistics, will speak on “Improving the Provider Experience – the Vision for Multi-Modal Data Collection in Australia.”

**But do not forget about Thursday!** We have another great session at 8:30 in the morning. This session, organized by Virginia de Wolf, consultant, and to be chaired by Alvan O. Zarate, National Center for Health Statistics, features a panel of four distinguished speakers discussing “Federal Data Sharing Requirements: Issues, Ethical Challenges, and Roles for the Statistical Community.”

“Openness is a norm of science that has been acknowledged for centuries, but until about 1990 the practice of sharing research data has varied widely and has rarely been subject to specific rules and procedures. However, recent changes in federal regulations have dramatically altered this picture. Now there are specific requirements, laws, and procedures. These changes pose challenges for researchers, research ethics committees, and research administrators in universities and other research organizations. They also provide challenges and opportunities for members of the statistical community who have knowledge of methods that can be used to prepare data for sharing and to protect confidentiality.”

The panelists are Michael Garrick, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; Karen M. Hansen and Fred Hutchinson, Cancer Research Center; Joan E. Sieber, California State University, East Bay; and, Alan M.

Zaslavsky, Harvard University Medical School.

**Lastly**, be sure to also check out the many GSS topic contributed and contributed sessions -- You may find just what you are looking for, or perhaps something will catch your interest that you had not even anticipated. **See you in Seattle!**

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**Social Statistics Section**

**FOCUS ON THE FUTURE: ANNOUNCING INVITED SESSIONS FOR JSM 2006**

By Juanita Tamayo Lott, 2006 Program Chair, and Beth Kilss, Publications Officer

We're hoping you'll read this article all the way through so you are fully informed about "Invited" Sessions in general and about what the Social Statistics Section has planned in particular for the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle in August. Did you know that the program for JSM 2006 Invited Sessions was finalized last August? Well, it's true! And that means your program chair and other section members began planning for JSM 2006 over a year ago (and that we're already starting to plan for JSM 2007).

**What Exactly Is an "Invited" Session?**

First, if you thought that "Invited" meant you could attend the session "by invitation only," you are wrong -- anyone registered for JSM may attend these sessions. Rather, "Invited" is the name applied to a limited number of sessions which are structured differently from "Topic Contributed" and "Contributed" Sessions. For Invited Sessions, there are, typically, three 30-minute invited talks, a 10-minute talk by a discussant, and 10 minutes of floor discussion. Thus, these sessions have two main benefits -- they offer more time per speaker, and they allow for extensive discussion on a single theme or topic. Although the slots for Invited Sessions are limited, we also have the opportunity to enter the "best" ideas in a competition for additional slots not yet allocated to a specific section or committee.

**What Invited Sessions Have Been Planned for JSM 2006?**

There are so many choices at each year's Joint Statistical Meetings that you might overlook some of the most interesting sessions without a little advance advertising from us. So here it is! We don't want you to miss out on an opportunity to attend what promises to be a stimulating collection of Invited Sessions. With our membership and mission statement in mind -- to advance research in social statistics which involves the use of methods of statistical inquiry, the use of statistical data, and the development of statistical measurement -- and with the theme of this year's meetings as a framework -- **Statistics for an Uncertain World: Meeting Global Challenges** -- we have organized four such sessions.

It will be easy for you to attend all four sessions, because they are spread out from Monday, August 7, through Thursday, August 10. So for those who like to plan early, mark your JSM schedules now! Here are the four sessions:

Monday, August 7, 10:30 am - 12:20 pm

**Cross-National Research on Immigration**

Organizer: Kevin Deardorff, U.S. Census Bureau

- Counting Immigrants and Expatriates: A New Perspective
- Joined Mexico and U.S. Data To Improve Knowledge on International Migration Issues
- Measuring Migration Between Canada and the United States: A Case Study for Best Practices

Tuesday, August 8, 10:30 am -- 12:20 pm

**Challenges Facing the Next Generation of Applied Statisticians**

Organizer: Kelly Zou, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital

- Motivations and Challenges Facing Women Statisticians
- Statistical Tools Employed in Legal Settings
- Professional Accreditation for Statisticians

This session focuses on nongovernmental statisticians. A complementary invited session by the Government Statistics Section will be at 2:00 pm - 3:50 pm, **Statistical Careers in Government Agencies**, organized by John Eltinge, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Wednesday, August 9, 2:00 pm -- 3:50 pm

**The Role of Administrative Records in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Surveys and Censuses**

Organizer: Ron Prevost U.S. Census Bureau

- Administrative Records and Survey Data Reuse: A Muse on their Future
- Why Are Survey Counts of Medicaid Enrollees Lower than Administrative Enrollment Counts?
- File Acquisitions and Methods Supporting the Expanded Use of Administrative Records

Thursday, August 10, 10:30 am – 12:20 pm

***What Makes a Successful Career in Statistics? Ruminations and Advice from Veteran Statisticians Who Made Major Contributions over the Long Haul***

Organizer: Jai Choi, National Center for Health Statistics

- Good Advice for Young Statisticians
- Why Some Statisticians Never Die or Fade Away: Reflections on the Career of Joe Waksberg
- A Personal Ten Commandments for a Successful Career in Biostatistics

So there you have it! Four varied sessions to whet your appetite. But remember, these are just the Invited Sessions. In next month's *Amstat News*, we will give you a preview of the Roundtable Luncheons we've organized. And in an upcoming, *Amstat News* we'll tell you about the Topic-Contributed Sessions sponsored by the section. There will be lots to choose from, and definitely something for everyone. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about these Sessions, feel free to contact Juanita Tamayo Lott, 2006 SSS Program Chair ([juanita.t.lott@census.gov](mailto:juanita.t.lott@census.gov)).

**What Can You Do For Your Section?**

**Attend Invited Sessions in 2006.** Do consider attending one or more of these sessions. Come to all of them if you can! The Social Statistics Section officers are striving always to strengthen the SSS portion of the program for JSM. But we need you, our members, to support these efforts by attending SSS-sponsored sessions and encouraging your colleagues to do so as well.

**Help Plan Invited Sessions for 2007.** We also want you to know that it's not too early to be thinking about topics for **Invited Sessions for JSM 2007**. We'll have more information available on this in a future *Amstat News* article, in our monthly electronic newsletter, and on our Section's Web site (<http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>), as the planning has already begun for 2007. So be thinking ahead to next year's program in Salt Lake City. In the meantime, if you have any specific ideas or general suggestions, contact our **2007 Program Chair, Allen Schirm** ([aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com)). Keeping you informed is one way to make sure you'll want to come to Social Statistics Section sessions. Now the rest is up to you! See you in Seattle!

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**BOB PARKER TO SPEAK AT THE NEXT WISE ELDERS PROGRAM**

The 5th presentation of the U.S. Census Bureau Wise Elders Program will be held Wednesday, **April 19, 2006**, from 10:30 to noon in the Census Bureau's Morris Hansen Auditorium. Mr. Bob Parker will talk on "New Building, New Opportunities."

Mr. Parker is currently serving on the Committee on National Statistics Panel on the Census Bureau's State and Local Government Statistics Program. He retired from federal service in 2005 as Chief Statistician, Government Accountability Office. He was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1986.

The program is open to the public. Please email [lavonne.m.lewis@census.gov](mailto:lavonne.m.lewis@census.gov) to ensure inclusion in the security guard visitors' list for April 19.

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH COPAFS MEETING**

Joan Turek, ASA COPAFS Representative

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)'s quarterly meeting was held on March 10, 2006. COPAFS works closely with both producers and users of federal statistics. Its main mission is to help bridge the gap between what federal statistical agencies produce vs. what users from both the public and private sectors need.

After reports from Sarah Zapolsky, COPAFS Chair, and Edward Spar, Executive Director, there were several informative presentations. David McMillen from the National Archives and Records Administration discussed new outreach initiatives from the National Archives and Records Administration; Douglas Wright described state and sub-state estimation with SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and Barbara Torrey, visiting fellow of the Population Reference Bureau compared statistics on population trends in Canada and the United States pointing out differences in the information sought by statistical agencies in these two countries.

Howard Hogan, Associate Director for Demographic Programs at the Census Bureau, gave an update on the termination of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). He reported that due to federal funding constraints, the FY 2007 President's budget for the Census Bureau removes the continued full funding for SIPP in order to fund higher priority programs, most notably, the American Community Survey, which replaces the long form for the 2010 Decennial Census. The Bureau chose to terminate SIPP, which has been entirely funded out of the Census Bureau's appropriation rather than to make significant cuts in all of its programs.

Many attendees expressed concern about termination of the only survey that is longitudinal and provides detailed information on the income, wealth, poverty, health status, and program participation of the U.S. population. Other unique features of SIPP, such as the Disability and Asset modules, will also be lost. Many agree that SIPP has languished and needs to be re-engineered.

The Census Bureau, which made this decision without consulting users, is proposing a new survey. They noted that SIPP has suffered from sample attrition and long delays before data are disseminated. They believe that new avenues for obtaining data, such as administrative records, must be explored. Concern was expressed about when a new survey would be available and what users would do in the meanwhile. Moreover, it was pointed out that the problems noted for SIPP are being experienced by all surveys. Many expressed skepticism about using administrative records. It was pointed out that administrative records may only be available with great delays and often must be obtained for each state. Moreover, it is not clear how privacy restrictions would be addressed so that users outside of the Census Bureau will continue to have access to micro data files. Participants urged the Census Bureau to involve users closely in the design and content of a new survey and also to seek expert technical advice. A letter from non-federal SIPP users protesting the cut was delivered to Congress on March 1. On March 10, a letter signed by 71 Members of Congress was sent to President Bush.

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**THE SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SIPP) –  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU APRIL 07, 2006 UPDATE**

*Editors' Note: There has been a great deal of discussion regarding changes to the SIPP; therefore, in the interest of informing our readers, we have provided the following Census Bureau update on the status of plans for SIPP reengineering.*

The U.S. Census Bureau's mission is to provide quality data about the Nation's people and its economy. In that role, it provides the statistical and design expertise to develop and administer surveys and censuses. A large-scale survey program like the SIPP, that involves multiple contacts over the course of any given panel, and many other agencies vying for content changes, has presented ongoing challenges to the Census Bureau. Reengineering of the SIPP will help address these challenges.

The Census Bureau is currently researching a replacement for the SIPP, although the specifics of this new system will not be available until later this fiscal year. The new system will involve the use of a new survey instrument, administrative records, and existing surveys, such as the American Community Survey. The Census Bureau's goal for the reengineered SIPP is to continue some of the sub-annual data processing that has been so important to users of the SIPP in the past. While the SIPP has served as a research tool for a select group, the data has never been used as the official measure of poverty, nor is it used in any federal funding formulas.

Contrary to reports, the reengineering of the SIPP is not purely a budgetary decision. Program managers at the Census Bureau have wanted to reengineer the SIPP for some time, because of newly available administrative records and survey data. The SIPP's longitudinal household design provides many advantages; however, it also imposes considerable burden on respondents and makes data processing and review difficult, leading to long delays before the data can be

released and analyzed. Furthermore, over the past ten years, the SIPP has been experiencing increasing nonresponse rates – from eight percent (1996), 13 percent (2001), to 15 percent (2004).

The past uses of the SIPP for the evaluation and modeling of future program policies will be a major consideration in the design of the reengineered SIPP— a new system to measure the dynamics of economic well-being. The reengineered SIPP will be expected to generate data that can be used for many requirements met by the SIPP in the past. Other requirements previously met by the existing SIPP survey (for example, modules on child and adult well-being, assets and liabilities, and healthcare utilization and modules for population subgroups of particular interest to agencies and analysts, such as children in households with low income, social security program recipients, and households providing support to nonhousehold members) will require sponsorship and support in the form of access to/acquisition of administrative data or that of direct funding.

Over time, the integration of existing surveys, administrative records, and data from the new survey collection component into the reengineered SIPP will provide a rich decision-making resource for policymakers.

The Census Bureau remains committed to gathering the type of information now provided by the SIPP, and has already begun to consult with federal agencies, private-sector researchers, and data users to assist us in the reengineering process. Our reengineering efforts reflect our commitment to ensure that our survey programs yield the highest quality data, while reducing respondent burden and costs.

For additional information, contact David Johnson, Chief, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau at [david.s.johnson@census.gov](mailto:david.s.johnson@census.gov)

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**COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL STATISTICS CELEBRATES ITS 100<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

The Committee on National Statistics, or CNSTAT, was established in 1972 as a standing committee of The National Academies at the recommendation of the President's Commission on Federal Statistics. Its mandate was to provide an independent, objective resource for evaluating and contributing to continuous improvement by the agencies that constitute the U.S. statistical system. Thirty-four years later, CNSTAT continues to serve that mandate and, in addition, undertakes studies for a broad range of research and program agencies of the federal government.

***CNSTAT will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> meeting, Thursday, May 11, 2006, with a special seminar at 3:15 pm in the Auditorium of the Main NAS Building, 2100 C St., NW. (Coffee and cookies in the Great Hall at 2:45 pm.) All are invited (see below).***

**CNSTAT in Brief**

CNSTAT is housed in the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, one of six operating divisions in The National Academies structure, which includes the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council (the operating arm of the Academies). Among the six divisions are almost 100 standing committees and boards that direct programs to assist the federal government in specific subject areas. Of the boards currently in existence, CNSTAT is the eleventh oldest--the oldest being the Food and Nutrition Board, established on January 1, 1940.

The work of CNSTAT is guided by an interdisciplinary committee of 14 experts in applied statistics, biostatistics, economics, demography, sociology, survey research, statistical agency management, and operations research. The members are volunteers who serve staggered 3-year terms, with an opportunity for a second term. CNSTAT meets as a board 3 times a year. Under the current arrangement, the fall and spring meetings include a public seminar and a working lunch with the heads of major statistical agencies. The winter meeting is a retreat that is held in Washington, DC, or Irvine, CA.

Eight people have chaired the Committee since its inception:

1972-1978	William Kruskal	University of Chicago (deceased)
1978-1981	Conrad Taeuber	Georgetown University (deceased)
1981-1984	Stephen Fienberg	Carnegie-Mellon University

1984-1985	Lincoln Moses	Stanford University
1985-1987	Stephen Fienberg	Carnegie-Mellon University
1987-1993	Burton Singer	Princeton University
1993-1998	Norman Bradburn	University of Chicago
1998-2004	John Rolph	University of Southern California
2004-	William Eddy	Carnegie-Mellon University

The Committee has had five Directors: Margaret Martin (retired), 1972–1978; Edwin Goldfield (deceased), 1978–1987; Miron Straf (currently, DBASSE deputy director), 1987–1999; Andrew White (currently, deputy director for science, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education), 2000–2003; and Constance Citro (20-year CNSTAT senior study director), 2004–present. James Hinchman, NAS General Counsel, was Acting Director from December 2003–May 2004. All of the CNSTAT directors have been active in the American Statistical Association and its sections and chapters; Martin and Straf served terms as ASA president.

## CNSTAT Studies

The Committee carries out its mission by convening panels of volunteer experts to conduct studies on data and methods needed to improve our understanding of topics in such areas as the economy, the environment, public health, crime, education, immigration, poverty, welfare, terrorism, and other public policy issues. Each study involves a series of meetings in which panel members gather information and deliberate. The panel produces a report that contains findings and recommendations for further action, usually directed toward specific government agencies. To study some topics, the Committee organizes workshops, in which the invited participants are not only experts from academia and the private sector, but also relevant staff members of federal agencies. The Committee itself periodically publishes *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*, now in its third edition (2005).

Current projects for statistical agencies cover such topics as: coverage evaluation and residence rules for the 2010 census, functionality and usability of estimates from the American Community Survey, benefits of sharing business data among statistical agencies, and reviews of the Census Bureau's state and local government statistics program and the USDA Agricultural Resource Management Survey. Studies for research and policy agencies include the feasibility, accuracy, and technical capability of a national ballistics imaging database, technical and privacy dimensions of information for terrorism prevention and other national goals, the design of a national account for health status, and data needs to understand business formation, dynamics, and performance.

As of early 2006, the efforts of panel members, workshop participants, and CNSTAT's own members and staff have resulted in over 170 publications (see the Publications page of CNSTAT's web site, [www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat](http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat), for links to reports available from the National Academies Press).

Recent publications, which indicate the breadth of the Committee's portfolio, include:

*Analyzing Information on Women-Owned Small Businesses in Federal Contracting*  
*Beyond the Market: Designing Nonmarket Accounts for the United States*  
*Expanding Access to Research Data: Reconciling Risks and Opportunities*  
*Experimental Poverty Measures: Summary of a Workshop*  
*Food Insecurity and Hunger in the United States: An Assessment of the Measure*  
*Improving Data to Analyze Food and Nutrition Policies*  
*Measuring International Trade on U.S. Highways*  
*Testing of Defense Systems in an Evolutionary Acquisition Environment*

## CNSTAT Support

A large group of statistical, policy, and research agencies contribute core funding to CNSTAT. This support is critically important in enabling CNSTAT to address issues that cannot be resolved by one-time efforts, to conduct studies of interest to more than one agency, and to hold public seminars and other activities of the Committee. Panels and workshops are separately funded. Most agencies contribute core funding through a multi-year grant that is administered by the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program of the National Science Foundation.



Current core contributors include: Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA); Bureau of Economic Analysis and Census Bureau (Department of Commerce); National Center for Education Statistics; Energy Information Administration; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, National Center for Health Statistics, and National Institute on Aging (Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Research and Evaluation Division; Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research (HUD); Bureau of Justice Statistics; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Transportation Statistics; Statistics of Income Division (IRS); Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF); Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (SSA).

## **CNSTAT's 100<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

CNSTAT will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> meeting with a special seminar, followed by a reception. The seminar program includes:

**Katherine Wallman, U.S. Chief Statistician,  
"Recent Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office"**

**Tim Holt, President, Royal Statistical Society,  
Former Director, UK Office for National Statistics,  
"The Official Statistics Olympic Challenge: Wider, Deeper, Quicker, Better, Cheaper"**

**Janet Norwood, Former Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Discussant**

***Discussion from the floor***

**Date: May 11, 2006**

**Place: National Academy of Sciences Main Building, 2100 C St, NW – Auditorium**

**Time: 3:15 pm (coffee and cookies available in Great Hall beginning at 2:45 pm)**

**Please RSVP to Bridget Edmonds by May 8, 2006: 202-334-3096, or [cnstat@nas.edu](mailto:cnstat@nas.edu).**

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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](mailto: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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**THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESTABLISHMENT SURVEYS (ICES-III) –  
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS**

Montréal, Québec, Canada, June 18-21, 2007

The Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III) will be held on June 18-21, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Montréal in Montréal, Québec, Canada. The GSS is one of the sponsors of ICES-III.

The program committee for ICES-III will be accepting proposals for contributed papers (including topic contributed sessions) beginning April 13. **June 15, 2006 is the submission deadline.** The ICES-III Program Committee will review the proposals and notify the organizers if their proposal has been accepted.

Contributed sessions are divided into five segments. These will be used for four 20-minute presentations, followed by a 10-minute formal discussion, and a 10-minute floor discussion.

Proposals for contributed papers must be submitted on the **template** on the ICES-III web site:  
<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/index.cfm?fuseaction=contributed>

In 1993, ICES-I convened more than 400 experts in the area of surveys of businesses, farms and institutions. It set the stage by formally documenting the state of the art in 1993. In 2000, ICES-II took a forward look at methods for surveying businesses, farms and institutions. ICES-III will explore the current state of the art.

The Conference also will include:

- Four short courses on Monday, June 18,
- A keynote speaker and reception on Monday evening,
- Poster sessions, and software demonstrations throughout the conference,
- A closing dinner followed by a panel discussion, and
- Following the conference, a CD ROM of all presented papers will be sent to all Conference participants.

Montréal is a city rich in history, art, culture, and learning and sports. It combines the hustle of North America with the ambiance of Europe. The city's architecture, too, is an artful mix of old and new, with graceful historic structures lovingly preserved and merged with the cool lines of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The visual arts flourish here at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, the Musée D'art Contemporain, and hundreds of top-notch local galleries.

All Conference activities will be held at the Hyatt Regency Montréal. The Hyatt Regency Montréal web site is <http://montreal.hyatt.com/>. **(Hotel reservations will be open on March 1, 2007.)**

Further Conference information can be accessed on the ICES-III Web site:  
<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/index.cfm>

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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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