

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

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**Upcoming Deadlines and Events:**

**April 2009**

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

**May 2009**

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|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Roger Herriot Award— <b>Nomination deadline has been extended!</b> |
| 15 | ASA Election Closes                                                |
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**GSS Thanks Its Corporate Sponsors! NEW!**

The Government Statistics Section would like to thank its corporate sponsors for their generous 2009 contribution! GSS corporate sponsors who contributed in March 2009 were:

- 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

These wonderful contributions help GSS advance its mission 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. **It is not too late to contribute for**

**2009! Please contact Stephanie Shipp at [sshipp@ida.org](mailto:sshipp@ida.org) or 202-419-5498 for more information on how to become GSS corporate sponsor!**

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GSS and SSS Candidates for 2009 Election—including brief GSS and SSS candidate bios UPDATED!

It's that time of the year: the ASA election of officers is fast approaching! The election opened on Monday, March 16, 2009 and closes on Friday, May 15, 2009. To introduce you to the GSS and SSS candidates for election, we included a brief bio of each candidate below. Be sure to check it out prior to voting!

By now, you should have received your ballots. For those with email address on file with the ASA, the ballot was sent electronically; otherwise, the ballot was sent by mail. **Note: Some members have reported problems with the receipt of election ballots; these are generally due to overactive email spam filters. If you have not received an election ballot and have your email on file with ASA, please contact Monica Clark at monica@amstat.org.**

We'd also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Clyde Tucker, a member of both the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section, on his nomination for President-Elect of the ASA Board of Directors. Clyde's candidacy letter and bio can be found in the March edition of AmStat News and on-line at:
<http://www.amstat.org/candidatebios/index.cfm?fuseaction=ShowCandidates>

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

Introducing GSS and SSS Candidates for 2009 Election:

GSS Chair-elect:

Kevin Cecco, Internal Revenue Service

Kevin Cecco is a Supervisory Statistician of the Corporation Statistics Branch within the Statistics of Income (SOI) Division of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Under Mr. Cecco's direction, the mission of the Corporation Statistics Branch is to sample, edit, analyze, and disseminate critical tax statistics associated with active domestic corporations, such as C-Corporations, S-Corporations, as well as Partnerships on SOI's website, known as Tax Stats, in SOI's Corporation Complete Report, and the SOI Corporation Source Book. In his previous position in the SOI Division, Mr. Cecco was a Supervisory Mathematical Statistician of the Statistical Support Section. In this capacity, he managed a group of mathematical statisticians providing general statistical consulting services for various organizations throughout the IRS. His areas of expertise include statistical consulting, sample estimation, quantifying sampling variability, and

producing performance measurement indicators. Mr. Cecco received a B.S. Degree in Mathematics from Bloomsburg University in 1988 and completed several graduate courses in Statistics from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. Mr. Cecco also worked at the United States Bureau of the Census from 1990-1995, as well as for General Motors Acceptance Corporation from 1988-1990.

Steven Paben, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Steven Paben has been working in the federal government with the Bureau of Labor Statistics since 1996. Mr. Paben started out as a mathematical statistician working on sample design, variance estimation, and imputation issues on the National Compensation Survey. In 2004, he became a Branch Chief for the International Price Program. In 2008, Mr. Paben became Chief of the Division of Price Statistical Methods, which is responsible for all mathematical statistician work for the CPI, PPI, Import/Export Price Indexes, and the Consumer Expenditure Survey. Mr. Paben has a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of West Florida (1994) and a M.S. in Applied Statistics from Florida State University (1996). His publications include the co-authored articles "Maximizing and Minimizing Overlap When Selecting Any Number of Units Per Stratum Simultaneously for Two Designs With Different Stratifications," *Journal of Official Statistics* (2002) and "Is the ECI Sensitive to the Method of Aggregation? An Update," *Monthly Labor Review* (2002). Additionally, Mr. Paben has published many papers in the *Proceedings of the American Statistical Association*. As for other ASA activities, he has been the Selection Committee Secretary for the Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics since 2006.

GSS Program Chair-elect:

Daniel Beckler, USDA, National Agriculture Statistics Service

Dan Beckler is a supervisory mathematical statistician at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), where he has worked in various positions for almost 18 years. Mr. Beckler has worked on a variety of survey-related issues during his career; some of these include: survey response, data quality, the use of incentives, and Web data collection. His current position focuses primarily on the use of administrative data and data mining projects. Mr. Beckler has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in survey methodology.

Iris Shimizu, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Iris Shimizu is a mathematical statistician in the Office Research and Methodology, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), an agency in CDC. Dr. Shimizu works on survey design and methodology issues, especially for the National Health Care Survey, including sampling design, sample weighting, non-response adjustment, confidentiality aspects of micro-data, and variance estimation. She has refereed for American Journal of Epidemiology, American Journal of Public Health, Biometrics Journal, Journal of American Statistical Association, Journal of Official Statistics, and Medical Care Journal. She is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Council of Sections Representative:

Kennon R. Copeland, NORC

Kennon R. Copeland, Ph.D., is Associate Director and Senior Statistician, Statistics and Methodology, at NORC, which he joined in June 2007. Dr. Copeland has over 30 years' experience in large-scale household, establishment, and healthcare surveys. Dr. Copeland was previously Senior Director, Statistical Services at IMS Health, and had also worked at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Bureau of the Census. He has published articles in *Survey Methodology*, *Journal of Official Statistics*, *Drug Benefit Trends*, *Journal of Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management*, *New Medicine*, and *Scrip Magazine*, and has presented papers to the American Statistical Association on topics such as nonresponse adjustment, survey weighting techniques, establishment survey design, questionnaire design, and automated survey management systems. In addition, he served as editor and contributing author for *Quality in Establishment Surveys*, Statistical Policy Working Paper 15. Dr. Copeland received his Ph.D. in Survey Methodology from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland, his M.S. in Statistics from the University of Kentucky, and his B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Dayton.

Danna Moore, Washington State University

As the Associate Director for the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, Danna Moore is responsible for the design and supervision of funded projects, administration of SESRC, and serves as Principal Investigator. She responds to requests for proposals and coordinates research among the SESRC staff and serves on the Center's administrative team. She has a special interest in establishment surveys and surveys of special populations and is often counted on as the resident researcher for these methodologies. She is presently a board member and has served for nine years for the Institutional Human Subjects Review Board for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services and Department of Health. Dr. Moore has also conducted survey methods and other trainings for the Department of Health, International Field Directors and Technology Conferences, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Regence Blue Shield of Idaho, and Department of Personnel. Dr. Moore enjoys public speaking and often represents WSU presenting final survey results at national research conferences and to funded research sponsors. Before joining the SESRC staff in August of 1991, Dr. Moore's research background entailed 20 years of research experience where she was employed as an Economist and Research Associate for the International Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade (IMPACT) at Washington State University (WSU).

SSS Chair-elect:

Brian Harris-Kojetin, Office of Management and Budget

Brian Harris-Kojetin is a Senior Statistician in the Statistical and Science Policy Branch at the United States Office of Management and Budget. He chairs the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology and is lead at OMB on issues related to standards for statistical surveys, survey nonresponse, survey respondent incentives, and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA). He serves as the desk officer for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the demographic programs of the Census Bureau. Dr. Harris-Kojetin is also a frequent consultant with other OMB desk officers on statistical and methodological aspects of OMB "clearance" packages across all Federal agencies and led the development of the OMB guidance on surveys. He is also an elected Fellow of the ASA.

John Thompson, NORC

John Thompson is the President of NORC. National Opinion Research Center, known since its founding in 1941 as NORC, conducts high quality social science research in the public interest. NORC is headquartered in Chicago, with offices in the downtown Loop and on the University of Chicago's Hyde Park campus, and in Bethesda, MD, Berkeley, CA. and Albany, NY. NORC also maintains a nationwide field staff.

Before coming to NORC, Mr. Thompson had a distinguished career at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, most recently as the senior career officer responsible for all aspects of the 2000 Decennial Census. This was the largest peacetime mobilization undertaken by the U.S. government, with a budget of \$6.5 billion, establishment of over 500 field offices, a temporary workforce that peaked at over 500,000, and establishment of telephone capacity to receive over 5 million calls over a period of one month. Thompson was also chairman and director of the Executive Steering Committee for Accuracy & Coverage Evaluation Policy for the 2000 Census. This Committee was charged with making a recommendation as to whether or not to adjust the 2000 Census redistricting data for coverage errors, an issue fraught with political disagreement and controversy. His work was widely recognized as superb—with the Committee's recommendation supported by numerous reviews, including the National Academy of Sciences Panel on evaluating Census 2000.

SSS Program Chair-elect:

Nancy Clusen, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Nancy Clusen is a Statistician at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. She has led and managed a number of projects that focus on sample design, estimation, and the reduction of nonsampling error in surveys. Her experience involves a number of applications in diverse subject areas that include childhood nutrition, food assistance, education, transportation, health, military personnel, pharmacies, and physicians. Prior to coming to MPR, Ms. Clusen developed sample designs for mail and telephone surveys for social and market research. She has an MS in Survey Methodology from the University of Maryland, the Joint Program in Survey Methodology.

Dan Cork, Committee on National Statistics

Daniel Cork is a senior program officer at the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Academies. He is currently study director of a National Research Council panel reviewing the programs of the Bureau of Justice Statistics and co-study director of a panel on experimentation and evaluation programs for the 2010 census. A CNSTAT study director since 2000, he has also directed or helped direct a series of census-related studies, including one to review census residence rules and concepts, and was a lead staff member for a wide-ranging study of current systems for matching images of bullet and cartridge case evidence in national databases. He holds a B.S. in statistics from George Washington University and an M.S. in statistics and joint Ph.D. in statistics and public policy from Carnegie Mellon University.

SSS Secretary/Treasurer:

Amy O'Hara, U.S. Census Bureau

Amy O'Hara has been a statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau since 2004. Her work in the Modeling and Outreach Branch focused on income, housing and tax simulations for the Current Population Survey. She evaluated modeled estimates using linked administrative data as appropriate. In 2008, she joined the Data Integration Division as chief of the Survey Applications Branch. In this role, she leads research projects utilizing administrative data to analyze measurement error and program participation. Dr. O'Hara received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Notre Dame in 2003.

Kirsten West, U.S. Census Bureau

Kirsten West is a statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau. Her most recent work examined alternative methodologies for estimating the county level U.S. population. She has been involved with coverage error measurement in the 1990 and 2000 censuses using Demographic Analysis and post-enumeration surveys. She has worked for the National Academy of Sciences as the senior program officer for the study of the Social Security Administration's Representative Payee Program, and as a research associate for a panel on income estimation for small areas. She was elected president of the Southern Demographic Association. She has served as Program Chair for the Government Statistics Section. She received a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

SSS Council of Sections Representative:

Susan Hinkins, NORC

Susan Hinkins is a Senior Statistician with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, but she lives and works in Bozeman, Montana where her husband just retired from the university. Currently, she is the project manager for NORC's contract with the Office of Historical Trust Accounting, Department of Interior, where NORC's role includes designing statistical samples to test the accuracy and completeness of the Indian Trust system. Some of this work is in support of litigation activities. The statistical challenges have been very interesting and she's also had the opportunity to visit Agency offices in some wonderful areas of the country. Since receiving her Ph.D. in statistics (many years ago), she has also worked as a Manager in the Quantitative Economics and Statistics Group, Ernst and Young, LLP, Statistician with the Statistics of Income Division, IRS, and Statistician at EPA. Her primary statistical interests include the analysis of complex samples; nonresponse and missing data problems. As part of her role as Chair of the ASA Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights 2005-2008, she became active in the AAAS Coalition on Science and Human Rights. Dr. Hinkins is continuing her activities with the Coalition as a member of the Steering Committee and a co-chair of the Working Group on Service to the Human Rights Community. At the recent Launch of the Coalition in DC, many of the participants commented on the large number of statisticians interested and active in support of human rights. Dr. Hinkins has also served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Social Statistics Section and is a fellow of the ASA.

Robert Santos, Urban Institute

Robert (Rob) Santos is Senior Institute Methodologist at The Urban Institute (UI) in Washington, DC. He has served the public opinion and survey research industry for the past 30 years as a sampling/survey statistician, methodologist, project director, and senior administrator. Mr. Santos has participated in academic, nonprofit and commercial research industries. Besides two appointments at UI, he has held positions at NORC (Vice President of Statistics and Methodology; Director of

Survey Operations, 1996-1999); the University of Michigan Survey Research Center (Director of Survey Operations, 1989-1996); and ISR Temple University (Sr. Sampling Statistician, 1982-1989). He also enjoyed a five-year sojourn in the private sector as a co-owner and Executive Vice President of NuStats, a survey research firm in Texas (2001-2006). Mr. Santos was trained in survey sampling at ISR Michigan and holds a Masters degree in Statistics from the University of Michigan. In the broader research community, Mr. Santos has been appointed to several National Academies' Committees and Panels. He has held memberships on: the Census Advisory Committee, AHCPH Health Systems Research Study Section, and numerous elected and appointed positions in the American Statistical Association (ASA), including JSM program chair of the Social Statistics Section (2000) and the Survey Research Methods Section (1993). Rob is an elected Fellow of the ASA (2004) and the 2006 recipient of the ASA Founder's Award for excellence in survey statistics and contributions to the statistical community.

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

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).

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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.

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 Halaus, Conference Coordinator

Email: 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

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## **Roger Herriot Award – Nomination Deadline Has Been Extended to May 1!**

*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.

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:**

**The nomination deadline has been extended! Completed packages must be received by May 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.

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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, Inc., 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.

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.

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## 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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Statistics of Income Division, Internal Revenue Service (IRS)  
U.S. Census Bureau  
U.S. Social Security Administration

## 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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