

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

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**Government Statistics Section**

**VARIETY AND SALIENCE IN THE GSS PROGRAM FOR SEATTLE**

*By Michael P. Cohen, GSS Program Chair*

The Government Statistics Section (GSS) is pleased to announce its sessions for the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle this summer. The sessions display the full span of issues pertinent to the government sphere, including local, state, national, and international government issues. Besides government statisticians, there is much to interest other statisticians, demographers, survey methodologists, economists, and public policy specialists. The GSS program includes three invited sessions, one invited panel, eight topic contributed sessions, a topic contributed panel, five regular contributed sessions, four roundtable luncheons, and participation in a poster session.

**GSS Invited Sessions and Panel**

- *Statistics and the Millennium Development Goals* --- Paul Wassenich, Inter-American Development Bank; Paul Fields, Brigham Young University; David J. Fitch, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala; and Fritz J. Scheuren, NORC.

- *Statistical Careers in Government Agencies* --- William G. Barron, Northrop Grumman Corporation; Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Nell Sedransk, National Institute of Statistical Sciences; and John L. Eltinge, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- *Government Statistical Agencies Are Now Offering Electronic Reporting to Their Respondents but Is It Worth the Effort?* --- Michael D. Levi, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Toni Räikkönen, Statistics Finland; Jocelyn Burgess, Statistics Canada; Sean Thompson, Australian Bureau of Statistics; and Thomas L. Mesenbourg, U.S. Census Bureau.
- *Federal Data-Sharing Requirements: Issues, Ethical Challenges, and Roles for the Statistical Community* --- Panelists: Joan E. Sieber, California State University, East Bay; Karen M. Hansen, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; Michael Garrick, Washington State IRB and Alan M. Zaslovsky, Harvard Medical School.

### **GSS Topic Contributed Sessions and Panel**

The Student Paper Awards Competition Awards Presentation Session deserves some special comment. The competition is sponsored by GSS together with its sister sections: Social Science and Survey Research Methods. Juanita Tamayo Lott, David Judkins, and I served as judges. We can attest to the uniformly high quality of the papers getting awards and of the entries in general. The students receiving awards will present their papers during this session which begins at 4:00 on Sunday, August 6. So register before then and do not overlook this session!

- *Student Paper Competition Awards Presentations*
- *Expanding Access to Research Data: Reconciling Risks and Opportunity* --- Panel
- *Synthetic Data or No Data: Choices in Disclosure Avoidance Methods*
- *Responding to Emergency Needs for Data: Developing Population Estimates in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina*
- *Measuring and Improving Data Quality*
- *From Policy to Application: a Health and Mortality Case Study*
- *Innovative Uses of Longitudinal Panels, Information Documents, and Time-Series Analysis to Study the Impact of the U.S. Tax System*
- *Measuring, Monitoring, and Evaluating Internal Revenue Service Data*
- *New Technology in Data Collection*

### **GSS Regular Contributed Sessions**

- *Consumer Prices and Expenditures*
- *Frames*
- *Estimation for Government Data Collection*
- *Nonresponse Bias and Other Estimation Challenges*
- *Broad Quality Issues in Organizations*

### **GSS Roundtable Luncheons**

Robie Sangster has done a great job of organizing roundtables for Seattle. Roundtables are a wonderful way to learn more about a topic in a small, congenial group of folks with a similar interest.

- *Katrina: Unanticipated Data Needs*
- *Including Sexual Orientation Questions in Surveys: Issues and Approaches*
- *ASA and Volunteerism: New Special-Interest Group*
- *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*

I take this opportunity to thank all the session organizers and the volunteers to be chairs and discussants. I also thank the speakers who chose to participate in the GSS program. I thank my colleagues Juanita Tamayo Lott and David Judkins for their help at several junctures. I look forward to seeing you at a GSS session in beautiful Seattle!

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Social Statistics Section

SEE YOU IN SEATTLE: SOC STAT SECTION SESSIONS AT JSM 2006

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

If you've been reading our section news regularly for the past couple of months, by now you know about our Invited Sessions, Roundtable Luncheons, and Short Course planned for this year's Joint Statistical Meetings. If not, be sure to read the Social Statistics articles in the April (pp 30-31) and May (page 41) issues of *Amstat News*. We don't want you to be "sleepless in Seattle" wondering what your section has planned for you. But wait, there's more!

We figure the more you know ahead of time, the better informed you'll be, and the more likely you'll be to attend Soc Stat sessions. And furthermore, we think you'll agree that the rest of the program we have planned for you reflects our goal to provide our membership and other conference attendees a substantive, stimulating program with your interests in mind.

To round out the information we've provided so far, this column is devoted to the **Topic Contributed** and **Contributed Sessions** we have planned, and to letting you know about our **General Business Meeting/Mixer** that we have organized as well.

First, let's look at the sessions you'll want to attend:

Topic Contributed

Sunday, August 6, 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

Advances in Item Response Theory

Organizer: Sandip Sinharay, Educational Testing Service

Chair: Guowen Sun, sanofi-aventis

Limited Information Goodness-of-Fit Testing in Multidimensional Contingency Tables — Harry Joe, The University of British Columbia

Sensitivity of Latent Trait Analysis to Highly Skewed Ability Distributions —David Dailey, Woodcock-Munoz Foundation; Elena Erosheva, University of Washington

Checking the Appropriateness of the Statistical Model Used in National Assessment of Educational Progress —Sandip Sinharay, Educational Testing Service

Improve Variance Estimation for the Assessments Based on the Plausible Values Approach —Jiahe Qian and Shelby Haberman, Educational Testing Service

Estimation of Measurement Errors at Observed and Scaled Scores —Michelle Liou and Philip E. Cheng, Academia Sinica

Tuesday, August 8, 8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Frontiers in Demographic Coverage Measurement

Organizer: Dean H. Judson, U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: Jeremy Wu, U.S. Census Bureau

Demographic Coverage Measurement: Can Information Integration Theory Help? —Dean H. Judson, U.S. Census Bureau

Demographic Analysis in the UK Census: a Look Back to 2001 and Looking Forward to 2011 — Owen Abbott and Garnett Compton, Office for National Statistics

Coverage Assessment and Adjustment in the 2011 UK Census —Owen Abbott, Office for National Statistics

Using the Audit Trail Data To Evaluate the Quality of Collection of the Canadian National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth —Bruno Lapierre and Scott Meyer, Statistics Canada

Tuesday, August 8, 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

Innovative Uses of the Survey of Income and Program Participation for Social Program Evaluation

Organizer: Carole L. Popoff, U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: John Czajka, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Assessing the Effect of Allocated Data on the Estimated Value of Total Household Income in the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) —Patricia Fisher, U.S. Census Bureau

Welfare Reform Revisited: Leavers and Cyclers---How Are They Doing Under the New Restrictive Time Limits? —Carole L. Popoff and Qi Wang, U.S. Census Bureau

Assessing Estimates of Program Participation: an Analysis of Matched SIPP and Administrative Data —Scott Cody and Julie Sykes, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Accounting for SIPP Design Effects: Testing Four Approaches with the 2004 Panel —Arthur F. Jones, U.S. Census Bureau; Robert Nielsen, U.S. Census Bureau; Michael Davern, University of Minnesota; John Boies, U.S. Census Bureau

Topic Contributed Panels

Sunday, August 6, 4:00 PM - 5:50 PM

Going Beyond the Law: Ethical Aspects of Privacy in Surveys

Organizer: Gerald Gates, U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: Barbara Bailar, Consultant

Panelists:

Gerald Gates, U.S. Census Bureau

Pamela White, Statistics Canada

Jeffery Rodamar, U.S. Department of Education

Monday, August 7, 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

The Promise and Potential of the American Community Survey

Organizer: Charles Hirschman, University of Washington

Chair: Susan Schechter, Office of Management and Budget

Panelists:

Charles Hirschman, University of Washington

Linda Gage, California Department of Finance

Linda Jacobsen, Population Reference Bureau

Wednesday, August 9, 8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

What Is Feminist Statistics?

Co-Sponsors: Social Statistics Section, Caucus for Women in Statistics, Section on Government Statistics, Section on Statistical Education

Organizer: Mary W. Gray, American University

Chair: Mary W. Gray, American University

Panelists:

Martha Aliaga, American Statistical Association

Arlene Ash, Boston University

Eduardas Valaitis, American University

Contributed Paper Sessions

Sunday, August 6, 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

Types of Modes and Effects on Response Rates and Performance

Chair: Kristin Stettler, U.S. Census Bureau

A Comparison of In-Class and Online Student Evaluations —David Swanson, University of Mississippi

A Repeated Measures Design To Investigate Mode-Effects in the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale. — Richard Swartz, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center; Carl de Moor, Harvard Medical School; Karon Cook, University of Washington; Rachel T. Fouladi, Simon Fraser University; Karen Basen-Engquist, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center; Cathy Eng, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

Mode of Data Collection and the Foreign Born in the American Community Survey —Alexa Kennedy-Puthoff, U.S. Census Bureau

Making Item Selection More Efficient in Computerized Adaptive Testing —Hua-Hua Chang, University of Illinois; Zhiliang Ying, Columbia University

Infant Malnutrition in the Cape Coast District: A Ghanaian Case —Amakye Agyekum, University of Cape Coast

Comparison of Dose-Response Relationship Between Industrial Impulse Noise and Continuous Noise Induced Hearing Loss —Xiaoru Cheng

Monday, August 7, 8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Salient Variables for Select Research Populations

Chair: Jennifer Madans, National Center for Health Statistics

Is There Evidence of Racial Bias for the Federal Death Sentence? —Matthias Schonlau, RAND Corporation

A Measure of Intergroup Discrimination Other the Difference Between Median Wage Incomes —John Angle, Economic Research Service

Missing Value Imputation and Weights Adjustment for Binary Variables —Mingue Park and David Johnson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Analysis of Seasonal Variations in Vital Statistics in Croatia: Two Different Approaches —Ante Rozga, University of Split; Zeljko Banovic, T-Com Croatia

Mixtures of Regressions —Derek Young, Penn State

Joint Modeling of Quality of Life and Disease Progression —Rebecca Hubbard and Lurdes Y. T. Inoue, University of Washington

Detecting Bias in Jury Selection —Bruce Barrett, The University of Alabama

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

Quality Measures for Human Populations

Co-Sponsors: Social Statistics Section, Section on Health Policy Statistics

Chair: Kelly H. Zou, Harvard Medical School

Individuals with Disabilities: How They Impact Research —Larry Featherston, University of Arkansas

Statistical Methodology for Longitudinal Social Network Data —Anton Westveld and Peter Hoff, University of Washington

Testing for Differential Responses in a Multiple Category Scale: A Case Study on Self-Rated Health Among Foreign- and Native-Born Asian Americans —Elena Erosheva, Emily C. Walton, and David T. Takeuchi, University of Washington

Quality Management at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) —Kenneth Harris, National Center for Health Statistics

Achieving Clinical Satisfaction with the Desirability Function —Terrence Murphy, Yale University

Temporary Help, Leased, and Contract Workers: Designing and Testing a Supplement to the Current Employment Statistic Survey —Polly Phipps, Kathy Downey, Christopher Manning, and Kirk Mueller, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Multilevel Structural Equation Model for Ordinal Responses — Xiaohui Zheng and Sophia Rabe-Hesketh, University of California, Berkeley

Thursday, August 10, 8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Explorations in Behavior and Outcomes

Chair: Carole L. Popoff, U.S. Census Bureau

Shift Workers' and Their Spouses' Daily Activities —Anne Polivka, Bureau of Labor Statistics

A Group-Based Approach to Causal Analysis Using Longitudinal Data with Applications to Gang Membership and Teen Violence —Amelia Haviland, RAND Corporation; Daniel Nagin, Carnegie Mellon University; Paul Rosenbaum, University of Pennsylvania

Toward Redistricting Rules Based on Housing Density and Indivisible Census Tracts —Tom Belin, University of California, Los Angeles

Test Equating for Mixed-IRT Models: An Illustration with 3PL and Generalized Partial Credit Model Using the Stacking-Lord Approach —Yann-Yann Shieh

Oral Translations in Surveys: Issues of Data Quality and Question Design —Janet Harkness, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Comparing Internet Users and Non Internet Users Behavior Towards Market Products —Nuria Diaz-Tena, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.; Robert Benford, TNS-Global

A Policy Tool for Assessing Alcohol Intervention Strategies — Edward Wegman, George Mason University; Yasmin H. Said, Johns Hopkins University

Business Meeting and Mixer

Finally, we want to invite all of our members to the **August 7th** Business Meeting and Mixer, starting at 5:30 PM (Sheraton Seattle-Everett Room). You are strongly encouraged to join us for this annual event, which is your opportunity to meet the officers of the Social Statistics Executive Board and fellow SSS members.

The Executive Board will be reporting on the year's activities and will be expecting to get feedback and suggestions from SSS members at the meeting. We want to talk about plans for the coming year and future years.

We particularly encourage JSM 2006 session organizers and presenters to attend so we can recognize them and have them pass on their wisdom to JSM 2007 organizers and presenters.

What Can You Do To Help?

Since you asked, we would be happy to hear from you concerning the following few important pieces of information, namely:

- Why you are a member of the Social Statistics Section?
- What should the key purposes of the section be?
- How could SSS better serve you and your colleagues?

Let Us Hear from You!

If you just take a minute to tell us what's on your mind, it will really help us shape our plans to fit our members' needs. Please email susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov with your thoughts. Thanks for your help. We're looking forward to

hearing from you! And don't forget, we'll see you in Seattle at the business meeting and mixer on **August 7th**. We're counting on it!

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## PLANNING AHEAD FOR SOCIAL STATISTICS SESSIONS IN 2007

This is another reminder that it is time to be thinking about topics for **Invited Sessions for JSM 2007**. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, contact **Allen Schirm, Program Chair 2007** ([aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com)).

The **deadline** for submitting invited session proposals is 12 midnight eastern time on **July 26, 2006**. (The opening of online submission is June 26, 2006.

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SPECIAL HONOR FOR FORMER ASA PRESIDENT

Fritz Scheuren, Past President of ASA, and currently Vice President of Statistics, NORC, University of Chicago, was one of seven George Washington University alumni to receive the 70th annual Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award at a ceremony in Washington, DC, on May 20, 2006. Congratulations, Fritz!

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## 2006 ASA ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

Congratulations are in order to the GSS and SSS members who were elected to the Executive Boards of the Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections and to one of our members who was elected to the Council of Sections Governing Board. Unfortunately, ASA headquarters office was not able to tell us in time for this issue of the newsletter whether any other GSS or SSS members won in the recent elections as they are in the middle of a move to the new building. If we learn of other members who won, we will let you know next time.

For a complete listing of all winners in this year's ASA elections, go to:

<http://www.amstat.org/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=2006electionresults>

And for now, here are the GSS and SSS winners that we know about...

## SECTION ON GOVERNMENT STATISTICS (GOVT)

### For Chair-elect

Carol C. House, National Agricultural Statistics Service

### For Program Chair-elect

Michael E. Davern, University of Minnesota

### For Secretary/Treasurer

Lester R. Curtin, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### For Publications Officer

Sonya L. Vartivarian, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

### For Council of Sections Representative

Carolee Bush, C & B Associates

## SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION (SOC)

**For Chair-elect**

Linda Gage, California Department of Finance

**For Program Chair-elect**

Jana L. Asher, American Association for the Advancement of Science

**For Publications Officer**

Sharon M. Stern, U.S. Census Bureau

**For Council of Sections Representative**

Daniel H. Weinberg, U.S. Census Bureau

**COUNCIL OF SECTIONS GOVERNING BOARD**

**For Chair-elect**

Linda Gage, California Department of Finance

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2006 JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD WINNER

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award has been established to encourage mentoring of younger staff in the Federal statistical system. It is presented annually, beginning in 2003, to a supervisor who is nominated by co-workers and supervisors, and chosen by the Award Selection Committee.

The Award Selection Committee is pleased to announce that this year's winner is **Martin O'Connell**, Chief, Fertility and Family Statistics Branch, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Martin has held that position for the past 10 years, and over the course of his 30-year career at Census, he was first a statistician in the Fertility Statistics Branch (1976-1980) and then its Chief (1981-1996). Prior to coming to the Census Bureau, Martin was a research associate at the Population Center at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he has both masters and doctoral degrees in Demography. He also received a bachelor's degree in Economics from New York University.

In his current position at Census, Martin's staff is responsible for the Census Bureau programs that develop and analyze fertility and child-related data (child care, maternity leave, and child-well being issues) and the general areas of family, household and living arrangements. This includes surveys such as the Current Population Survey and the Survey of Income and Program Participation as well as the decennial census and the American Community Survey. His current research interests range from child care and maternity leaves issues to the study of new and emerging complex family structures and living arrangements. Integral to these studies are the examination of how different collection and processing methodologies can influence the quality of data reported on surveys.

Important projects that his staff is now undertaking involve the development of a new series of demographic reports on family and child-related topics from the American Community Survey to demonstrate how examining data from the regional and state-level perspective can increase our understanding of the diversity of demographic patterns at the national level. On the methodological front, Martin's group is also concluding a team project that will significantly improve the estimates of unmarried couples derived from the Current Population Survey. In addition, several members of the Fertility and Family Branch are also working on a project to evaluate the various weighting methodologies employed by the American Community Survey to produce more consistent estimates of married and unmarried couple households and person-level estimates of spouses and partners.

Recently, the Census Bureau recognized Martin for his mentoring skills when he was awarded the Bureau's 2006 Outstanding Mentor Award. And in 1992, he was also awarded the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal for Superior Service.

The 2006 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was presented to Martin on June 7, 2006, at an award ceremony held at the Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Congratulations to Martin on this well-deserved honor!


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**WRAY JACKSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER IS ANNOUNCED**



On May 9, 2006, Robert Groves, chair of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship committee, announced that the committee had selected **Maria Ciarleglio** as the 2006 scholarship winner. Maria is a doctoral candidate in biostatistics at Yale University. She is currently working on her thesis, which focuses on developing novel strategies for conducting interim analyses in clinical trials. After receiving her degree, Maria would like to work as a biostatistician on VA-sponsored clinical trials. Maria plans to use the scholarship funds to purchase textbooks to further her study of Bayesian statistics in clinical trials and specialized software for implementing adaptive and group sequential designs.

Other members of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee are Juanita Tamayo Lott and Michael P. Cohen.

Congratulations to Maria on winning this prestigious award!

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2006 WISE ELDERS HEADS UP

The next installment of the Census Bureau's Wise Elders Program will present ~~

JANET NORWOOD
Former Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Statistics and Public Policy: Past and Future

Dr. Norwood will talk about the interaction of data and public policy based on her experience as Labor Statistics Commissioner under three Presidents and six Secretaries of Labor and against that background what she thinks some of the major issues are that the agencies in the U.S. statistical system will face in the future.

Wednesday, June 28, 2006
10:30 am – Noon
Morris Hansen Auditorium

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**COMMON DESTINY: FILIPINO AMERICAN GENERATIONS**

**Juanita Tamayo Lott**, Human Resources Division, Census Bureau, and 2006 Program Chair for Social Statistics Section, is the author of the recently published book *Common Destiny – Filipino American Generations*. The publisher, Rowman & Littlefield, notes that "This book documents how Filipino Americans have grown within the context of political forces, the prevailing social order, rights and responsibilities of individuals, economic success, and the American Dream. Lott shows how Filipino Americans have become active participants in the American Democracy and why active civic participation is crucial to any emerging ethnic group. Her controversial thesis is that the twenty-first century will not be defined by the

color line but by a more basic human relationship—the adult/child connection—because no society can survive without sustained commitment and shared sacrifice by adult men and women for the welfare of future generations.”

Juanita got to sign copies at the April 28 Los Angeles Times Festival of Books at UCLA and will sign again on **Friday, July 28**, at the Smithsonian Institution public program, Contemporary Issues Facing Filipino Americans, which will be from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the Dillon Ripley Center, next to the Smithsonian Castle. Also at the Ripley Center is the commemoration photo exhibit of 100 years of Filipino Americans, 1906-2006, on display through August 20 and then travels to various cities, starting with Honolulu.  
(See [www.apa.si.edu/filamcentennial](http://www.apa.si.edu/filamcentennial) .)

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THE NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY (NHIS) WORKSHOP

National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, Maryland, July 13, 2006

The Division of Health Interview Statistics will conduct a seminar on the NHIS on July 13th following the 2006 National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Data Users Conference. The seminar will be held at the NCHS in Hyattsville, MD (located in the Washington, DC Metro area).

The target audience for the seminar is beginning and intermediate users of the survey data.

A preliminary agenda includes:

- Overview of the NHIS
- Accessing data through the Web
- Sample design issues
- Analytic examples
- Co-sponsoring questions on the NHIS
- New on the NHIS

You may contact Peter Meyer pmeyer1@cdc.gov to be put on the Workshop mailing list.

For additional information about

- the NHIS, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis/hisdesc.htm>
- the NCHS 2006 Data Users Conference to be held July 10-12, 2006, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington D.C, go to http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/events/duc2006/duc_announce.htm or http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/events/duc2006/duc_announce2006.htm

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## GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICANS

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS)

The NASS would like to make qualified U.S. citizens of Asian-Pacific descent aware of the following scholarship program. NASS is the primary data-gathering agency within the USDA. Most of our statisticians work on surveys or in geographic-information systems.

The Graduate Scholarship Program provides funding for graduate school as preparation for a career in government service. The program is designed to recruit U.S. citizen, Asian-Pacific Americans to work for USDA after completion of graduate course work in particular disciplines, and will be administered under the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP).

In 2006, twelve scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled in Master's or Ph.D. programs. Generally, a maximum of two (2) years of funding will be provided for a Master's degree and four (4) years of funding will be provided for a Ph.D. degree.

**For more information contact:**

George Hanuschak, (703) 877-8000 Ext. 100, [George\\_Hanuschak@nass.usda.gov](mailto:George_Hanuschak@nass.usda.gov)  
Hubert Hamer, (202) 720-8092, [Hubert\\_Hamer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:Hubert_Hamer@nass.usda.gov)

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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 began accepting proposals for contributed papers (including topic contributed sessions) beginning on 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.

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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**GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICANS**

Rome, Italy, Dec. 13-15, 2006

<http://vneumann.etse.urv.es/psd2006>

In addition to the information which follows, the February 2006 issue of the *GSS/SSS Newsletter* provides more detailed information.

**AIMS AND GOALS**

Privacy in statistical databases is about finding tradeoffs to the tension between the increasing societal and economical demand for accurate information and the legal and ethical obligation to protect the privacy of individuals and enterprises which are the source of the statistical data. To put it bluntly, statistical agencies cannot expect to collect accurate information from individual or corporate respondents unless these feel the privacy of their responses is guaranteed; also, recent surveys of web users show that a majority of these are unwilling to provide data to a web site unless they know that privacy protection measures are in place.

"Privacy in Statistical Databases'2006" (PSD'2006) is the main conference of the CENEX-SDC project funded by Eurostat and will be used to raise the awareness of SDC in Europe and beyond. PSD'2006 is regarded as a successor of PSD'2004 (<http://vneumann.etse.urv.es/psd2004>), the final conference of the CASC project (IST-2000-25069), held in Barcelona on June 9-11, 2004, and with proceedings published in Springer LNCS vol. 3050. Those two PSD conferences follow a tradition of high-quality technical conferences on SDC which started with "Statistical Data Protection-SDP'98," held in Lisbon in 1998 and with proceedings published by OPOCE, and continued with the AMRADS project SDC Workshop, held in Luxemburg in 2001 and with proceedings published in Springer LNCS vol. 2316.

Like the aforementioned preceding conferences, PSD'2006 originates at the EU, but wishes to stay a worldwide event in SDC. Thus, contributions and attendees from overseas are welcome.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Submission deadline: **June 30, 2006**  
Acceptance notification: **July 31, 2006**  
Proceedings version due: **September 1, 2006**  
Conference: **December 13-15, 2006.**

CD-only submission deadline: **Sep. 25, 2006**; CD-only acceptance notification: **October 10, 2006**; CD-only proceedings version due: **October 25, 2006**

## **VENUE, TRAVEL, AND REGISTRATION**

The conference will take place on **December 13-15, 2006**, at the ISTAT headquarters, Via C. Balbo 14, 00184 Rome.

Travel, accommodation, and registration information will be posted at <http://vneumann.etse.urv.es/psd2006>.

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ANNOUNCING THE 23RD INTERNATIONAL METHODOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES IN MEASURING POPULATION HEALTH

Who: Organized by Statistics Canada

When: November 1 - 3, 2006

Where: Chateau Cartier, Gatineau, Quebec

For more information, send e-mail inquiries to symposium2006@statcan.ca, or contact Milorad Kovacevic by phone at 613-951-9891 or by e-mail at Milorad.Kovacevic@statcan.ca.

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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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## GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

**Stephanie Shipp**

Chair, 2006

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

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