

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

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

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

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|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 2009</b>   | <b>JSM 2009:</b> advance registration (increased fees apply)                                           |
| 8                  | <b>JSM 2009:</b> hotel reservation deadline                                                            |
| 13                 | <b>JSM 2009:</b> final program (downloadable PDF file) posted online                                   |
| 16                 | <b>JSM 2009:</b> advance registration ends (5:00pm Eastern or 2:00pm Pacific)                          |
| <b>August 2009</b> |                                                                                                        |
| 1-6                | <b>JSM 2009</b> is being held in Washington, DC; on-site registration available (increased fees apply) |

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2009 FELLOWS OF THE ASA! **NEW!**

Submitted by Carrie Dennis, SSS Publications Officer, 2009-2010

In recognition of their outstanding professional contributions to and leadership in the field of the statistical science, the American Statistical Association announced the election of 57 of its members as Fellows of the Association. The Fellows will be presented at a ceremony on **Tuesday, August 4**, at the Association's 169th annual Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington, D.C. Please join us in congratulating the seven GSS and SSS members who were announced as Fellows of the American Statistical Association:

John M. Abowd
Jana L. Asher
William P. Butz
Stephen H. Cohen

Mark S. Handcock
Gary King
Gary M. Shapiro

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**JSM 2009 NEWS: PLAN TO ATTEND GSS AND SSS BUSINESS MEETINGS! NEW!**

*Submitted by Steve Cohen, GSS COPAFS Representative, 2009-2010*

Don't forget to attend the business meetings of Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections! See what your Executive Committees have been up to and have planned for the future. Give the Executive Committees your ideas of what you would like to see the Sections to explore for you.

Also, come shmooze with other members. If this isn't enough reason to attend, come for the hors d'oeuvres and to meet people for dinner. JSM in Washington, D.C. is going to be the place to be in early August. If you are a member, feel free to bring along a colleague who might be interested in government or social statistics but is currently not a member of GSS or SSS.

- **SSS business meeting** is scheduled for **Monday, August 3, 5:30-7:30 pm** in **Room 302** of the Convention Center.
- **GSS business meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 4, 5:30-7:30 pm** in **Room 160** of the Convention Center.

In addition, two awards will be presented during the GSS business meeting: the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Award and the Patricia J. Doyle Service Award. The winners of the poster competition will be in attendance there as well. Please come and join us to congratulate the recipients of the awards/prizes.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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JSM 2009 NEWS: SSS CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS NEW!

Submitted by Kathy O'Connor, 2009 SSS Program Chair

If you haven't done so already, take some time and review the online 2009 JSM schedule on the ASA website. We have many interesting and robust contributed sessions for you to attend in Washington DC. Contributed sessions are set up as several paper presentations or a panel. They are classified as either topic-contributed (where all of the talks or discussions in the session are purposely planned or grouped to relate to a central topic) or regular contributed (where all of the talks or discussions may or may not coalesce around a certain theme or topic).

SSS-sponsored or cosponsored contributed sessions are scheduled each day from Sunday through Wednesday. These sessions cover a diverse array of topics and will make you think, even if you've forgotten all of the formulae! Please be sure to include SSS contributed sessions in your personalized schedule!

Here are selected examples of questions that will be raised in SSS-sponsored contributed sessions include the following:

- In a complex group randomized trial of schools, how should analytic results be described to appropriately communicate technical and statistical results, particularly in a condensed format (such as an executive summary)?
- How can we best measure poverty? What dimensions can or should be added to the official poverty measure?
- Have you ever thought about transportation statistics? How can we collect data from the epitome of a "mobile population" (long-haul truck drivers)? What methods can we use to study and

improve crash analysis? How do steering patterns among drivers diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea syndrome (who are at higher risk of drowsy driving) vary during “microsleep” episodes? How can we assess driver distraction in commercial motor vehicle operations?

- How can we improve Census data for demographic analyses?
- What can we do to minimize the use of Social Security Numbers in Federal data collections?
- What methods can we use to look at individual or small group behaviors and the impact on data?
- IRT, MCMC, SEM – How do I make sense of this alphabet soup?
- How can estimation impact policy development at the Federal level?
- What statistical strategies can be used to study human rights violations by a national police force, using Guatemala as a case study? What unique statistical and operational difficulties should statisticians consider (such as constant document movement, uncertain resources, a highly unusual or fluid universe from which to sample, unknown probabilities of section, and sparse knowledge of the measures of size)?

Finally, I want to draw special attention to one SSS-sponsored topic-contributed session. Meet the winners of the annual student paper competition sponsored by SSS, GSS, and SRMS as they present their innovative work on **Sunday, August 2nd** (see next article for more information). Let’s support the next generation of brilliant statisticians!

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#### **JSM 2009 NEWS: RESULTS OF THE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

*Submitted by Kathy O’Connor, SSS JSM 2009 Program Chair, CDC/NCHS*

The Social Statistics, Government Statistics, and Survey Research Methods Sections recently sponsored a competition for student and post-graduate papers to be presented at the August 2009 JSM meeting in Washington, DC. The submissions could explore either a new statistical methodology, or creatively apply statistical analysis to a problem, issue, or policy question pertinent to the subject area of one of the sponsoring sections.

We received a batch of excellent papers, and would like to thank and heartily congratulate all contestants for their courage to enter, stretch out of their comfort zone, and try their best. Five people won awards, worth up to \$800 each to cover JSM expenses. The winning papers will be presented in session 56, a SSS-sponsored topic contributed session, on **Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4--5:50 pm**. Winners will also be recognized at the sections’ business meetings.

We eagerly look forward to hearing the winning presentations (listed below) in August; congratulations!

**Dr. Solange Correa**, 2008 Ph.D. graduate of the University of Southampton (UK), now at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics:

“Bias corrections in multilevel modeling of survey data with applications to small area estimation”

**Benmei Liu**, University of Maryland, student in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology Ph.D. program:

“Adaptive hierarchical Bayes estimation of small-area proportions”

**Dr. Jeremy Porter**, 2008 Ph.D. graduate of the Mississippi State University, now at Rice University:

“Using multivariate special statistics in the modeling of rate-based diffusion processes: an extension and replication of Cohen and Tita”

**Dr. Santanu Pramanik**, 2008 Ph.D. graduate of the University of Maryland Joint Program in Survey Methodology, now at NORC:

"The prior selection and approximations for the nested error regression model: estimation of finite population means for small areas"

**Hui Zhang**, Ph.D. student in the University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology:

"Generalized ANOVA for concurrently modeling mean and variance within a longitudinal data setting"

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JSM 2009 NEWS: GSS AND SSS ROUNDTABLES

Submitted by Lisa Blumerman, 2010 GSS Program Chair, and Joseph Salvo, 2010 SSS Program Chair

Why not attend a roundtable session at this year's Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington, D.C.? Roundtables allow participants to meet discussion leaders in a more relaxed setting than contributed or plenary sessions. Take advantage of these extended and relaxed opportunities to learn about and discuss important topics.

This year, the Social Statistics Section and Government Statistics Section are pleased to sponsor three morning-coffee and eight luncheon roundtables, which explore substantive and methodological topics that are central to our work in social statistics. Because participation is limited, please sign up for these sessions when you register and plan your JSM 2009 schedule. Participation in these roundtables will incur an extra charge (\$40 for the roundtables with "lunch" and \$15 for the roundtables with "coffee"). Read on and learn the details, as you would not want to miss signing up for these excellent activities when planning your schedule for JSM!

MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 7:00-8:15 AM

Managing Surveys In a Disrupted Environment

Lead by Carol House, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Sponsor: Government Statistics Section

The environment in which a survey is conducted can be disrupted through weather, social, economic or security events. This Roundtable will focus on the decision process that a statistical organization must undertake when faced with a disruption to an ongoing survey when they have only a short time frame in which to react. The Roundtable continues a discussion started in a 2008 statistical policy seminar. One example will be the 2008 flood in the U.S. Midwest which disrupted ongoing agricultural surveys.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 12:30-1:50 PM

Can We Teach Data Users to Use Survey Data Wisely?

Lead by Deborah H. Griffin, U.S. Census Bureau

Sponsor: Social Statistics Section

Given the sea change that the American Community Survey represents, three roundtables are being offered this year by the Social Statistics Section. The first roundtable "Can We Teach Data Users to Use Survey Data Wisely?" will discuss ideas on how best to educate data users to better address the challenges that they face with these new data.

Removing the Veil from Publicly Released Polls: What Is the Statistician's Role in the Fight to Improve Statistical Literacy?

Lead by Stephen J. Dienstfrey, Independent Consultant, formerly a Survey Statistician at SRBI and at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Sponsor: Social Statistics Section

We are a nation that is obsessed with numbers, as can be seen in the proliferation of polling. Yet, at the same time, there is a very real sense that most people are unaware of the elementary statistical principles that are the foundation for this enterprise. The roundtable “Removing the Veil from Publicly Released Polls: What Is the Statistician’s Role in the Fight to Improve Statistical Literacy?” asks about the statistician’s role in bridging this gap. This includes steps that organizations like ASA and media outlets can take to promote statistical literacy.

Communicating Statistics to Non-technical Audiences

Lead by Leonard M. Gaines, Empire State Development

Sponsor: Government Statistics Section

Recently the federal government has increased the amount of statistical data released to the public. These data comes with sampling and non-sampling limitations that are not always easy to understand. At the same time technology has made it easier for the general public to access these data. Many data users lack the statistical knowledge to understand these limitations or our explanations of them. Using the Census Bureau's American Community Survey as a starting point for the discussion, we will look at how to: (1) let the user community know that these limitations exist and may be important for their purposes, (2) inform the users about limitations on specific data items, and (3) direct users to sources for more information and support.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 7:00-8:15 AM

The Interaction of the Statistician with the Subject Matter Expert: Statistics as a Chameleon Discipline

Lead by Margaret D. Carroll, National Center for Health Statistics

Sponsor: Government Statistics Section

For the past 50 years statistics has been applied to broad spectrum of disciplines, e.g. economics, agriculture, the law, defense as well as health and nutrition. The statistician therefore works with subject matter experts in analyzing data and in addressing issues related to the particular discipline. In this coffee round table session, statisticians will have an opportunity to discuss their experiences in interacting with subject matter experts. Similarities as well as differences in approaches applied in producing the finished products related to different disciplines will be considered. Application of statistics specific to a particular discipline as well as common threads can be noted.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 12:30-1:50 PM

What Every Statistician Should Know About the ACS--ACS for Newbies

Lead by Susan Schechter, U.S. Census Bureau

Sponsor: Social Statistics Section

This is the second of three roundtable luncheons focusing on the American Community Survey. "What every statistician should know about the ACS—ACS for newbies" is an ACS primer for statisticians. This roundtable will focus on key points of interest to statisticians on the content and methods of this survey. Recognizing that the ACS represents a big shift in the collection, compilation and dissemination of socioeconomic data, the second ACS roundtable focuses on user training.

Using Data from the American Community Survey--What Federal Agencies Need to Know

Lead by Frederick Eggers, Independent Consultant, formerly Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Sponsor: Social Statistics Section

This is the third of three roundtable luncheons focusing on the American Community Survey. For those who work in/with federal agencies, “Using Data from the American Community Survey - What Federal Agencies Need to Know,” will identify issues that federal agencies should consider when

making the transition to the ACS. Discussion topics include when to start using ACS data, how often to "refresh" ACS data, and how to prepare customers for data from this new source.

The Unique Method for Obtaining Data: Entering Agreements to Share Administrative Records

Lead by Stephen Q. Cornman, National Center for Education Statistics

Sponsor: Government Statistics Section

Declining survey response rates, rising survey costs, high demand for data to evaluate government programs, and the need to address complex policy questions create pressure for wider statistical uses of administrative records. But working with administrative records can pose a number of challenges, including the time and effort involved in negotiating and obtaining the data.

Data sharing agreements are the unique method for statistical agencies to obtain administrative records. This roundtable will introduce you to a model data use agreement developed by an interagency team sponsored by the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology.

The concepts are broad enough that they should be considered prior to entering into any data sharing agreement. This model agreement will promote uniform implementation of interagency agreements, while considering specific factual circumstances.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5th, 7:00-8:15 AM

The 2010 Census Communications Campaign--Research that Feeds the Campaign

Lead by Nancy Bates, US Census Bureau

Sponsor: Government Statistics Section

Curious about the paid advertising campaign being developed for the 2010 Census? Come and hear how Census mail return data, data from the American Community Survey (ACS), and a special survey were all used in concert to develop the segmentation and messaging for the upcoming Census 2010 advertising campaign. Starting with tract-level Census 2000 mail response data, an eight cluster audience segmentation was developed to serve as the backbone for the communications campaign. The clusters were then updated and validated using data from the 2005-2007 ACS. Lastly, the Census Barriers, Attitudes and Motivators (CBAMS) survey was conducted to understand the different messaging "mindsets" of the campaign as well as the best media vehicles to reach different populations. The roundtable leader is the former lead researcher for the Census 2010 Publicity Office.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5th, 12:30-1:50 PM

Leveraging Advances in Cyberinfrastructure to Provide Secure Access to Sensitive Data; Preserve Data; and Create Virtual Scientific Communities

Lead by Timothy M. Mulcahy, NORC at the University of Chicago

Sponsor: Social Statistics Section

With technology increasingly causing tension between our need for data and the privacy issues involved in data gathering and compiling those data, some innovative approaches have been created to strike a correct balance between these considerations so that data availability and access are enhanced. One important example will be discussed in "Leveraging Advances in Cyberinfrastructure to Provide Secure Access to Sensitive Data; Preserve Data; and Create Virtual Scientific Communities." The National Opinion Research Center's (NORC) Data Enclave provides authorized researchers with an opportunity to participate in a cutting edge application of these principles in an environment that promotes data use, user interaction and privacy safeguards.

Metadata: Making It Work for Federal Statistics

Lead by Shawna Waugh, Energy Information Administration; Daniel W. Gillman, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Sponsor: Government Statistics Section

Metadata describe other data or processes. For users of data, metadata are the record of how those data were produced and what the data mean. This is similar to showing your work when solving a math problem. In order to understand the data a survey produces, you must know the steps that were taken. Metadata can be simple or be detailed. The more detailed, the harder it is to capture. How does an agency decide what is enough? Rather than helping the person creating it, metadata helps others understand a survey and its data. How does an agency make it worthwhile for experts to record their metadata? Users encounter different formats and structures in data sets all the time. Metadata is there to help them use the data. Does the metadata need to have the same problem? If so, metadata needs its own metadata! Metadata standards exist to solve this problem.

If you want more information about these JSM 2009 roundtables or if you have ideas for invited sessions for JSM 2010, contact 2010 SSS Program Chair, Joseph Salvo (jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov) and 2010 GSS Program Chair, Lisa Blumberman (lisa.m.blumberman@census.gov). We look forward to seeing you there!

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### **JSM 2009 NEWS: GSS and SSS INVITED SESSIONS**

*Kathy O'Connor, JSM 2009 SSS Program Chair and Sunghee Lee, JSM 2009 GSS Program Chair*

We've achieved our goal: to sponsor an array of great sessions for you to attend at the 2009 JSM! Remember, the weather in Washington, D.C. in August 2009 will be hot and humid, so plan now to seek relief with our invited sessions in the air-conditioned comfort of the Washington Convention Center! We have seven robust invited sessions with topics that are sure to pique your interest. At least one SSS or GSS invited session is scheduled each day for Sunday through Wednesday, so make plans now to attend all.

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 2nd, 2:00-3:50 PM**

#### ***Building statistical capacity globally***

Explore the 2009 JSM theme, "From evidence to policy," from a global perspective. Learn more about diverse facets and challenges of statistical capacity building, and how this impacts human welfare.

*Organizer:* Nilupa S. Gunaratna, International Nutrition Foundation

*Chair:* Stephen Pierson, American Statistical Association

*Panelists:*

- Fritz Scheuren, NORC at the University of Chicago
- Juanita Tamayo Lott, Tamayo Lott Associates
- Miranda Mafafo, Statistics South Africa
- James J. Cochran, Louisiana Tech University
- Siobhan Carey, Central Statistics Office

#### ***The Use of Paradata in Federal Government Surveys***

Many government survey operations have begun collecting paradata--information about the data collection process--to better understand contact and cooperation propensities, track interviewer performance and survey costs, and guide on-going data collection activities. This session will examine a wide array of paradata applications in government surveys, from managing day-to-day survey operations to evaluating the quality of collected data. The session should be of particular interest to survey managers and methodologists and anyone interested in evaluating survey costs and sources of survey error.

*Organizer:* James M. Dahlhamer, National Center for Health Statistics, CD

*Chair:* Nancy Bates, US Census Bureau

*Panelists:*

- Robert Groves, University of Michigan: Use of Paradata to Manage a Field Data Collection
- James Wagner, University of Michigan: Using the Fraction of Missing Information to Monitor the Quality of Survey Data

- John Dixon, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Modeling the Difference in Interview Characteristics for Different Respondents
- Aaron Maitland, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC: An Evaluation of Nonresponse Bias Using Paradata from a Health Survey
- James M. Dahlander, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC: Subunit Nonresponse in the National Health Interview Survey. An Exploration Using Paradata

#### **MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 8:30-10:20 AM**

##### ***O' privacy where art thou? Mapping the landscape of data confidentiality***

This session introduces an emerging approach to tackle data privacy questions that integrates two rich traditions in data privacy research; one originating from statistics (i.e., statistical disclosure limitation), and the other from computer science (i.e., privacy-preserving data mining and private data analysis).

*Organizers:* Aleksandra B. Slavkovic and Adam D. Smith, Pennsylvania State University

*Chair:* Aleksandra B. Slavkovic, Pennsylvania State University

*Discussants:* Laura Zayatz, U.S. Census Bureau; Marilyn Seastrom, National Center for Education Statistics

- *Rethinking the risk-utility tradeoff approach to statistical disclosure limitation;* Stephen Fienberg, Carnegie Mellon University
- *Rethinking official statistical disclosure limitation procedures from a cryptographic privacy perspective;* John M. Abowd, Cornell University
- *Rethinking privacy and disclosure limitation from a cryptographic perspective;* Cynthia Dwork, Microsoft Research

#### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 10:30-12:20 PM**

##### **Social network analysis: bridging evidence and policy in complex environments**

This session challenges the linear confines of traditional statistical approaches by modeling complex interrelationships that are increasingly critical in the social sciences. Learn about advances in the science of network analysis, and how these analyses can and are being used to address contemporary policy challenges.

*Organizer:* Jeffrey L. Herman, George Mason University

*Chair:* Jeffrey L. Herman, George Mason University

*Discussant:* Stanley Wasserman, Indiana University

- *Utilizing external information in social networks;* David Marchette, Naval Surface Warfare Center
- *The use of social network analysis in support of Federal agencies;* Elizabeth A. Conjar, George Mason University; Dan Horn, Booz Allen Hamilton
- *Influence and implications of leadership style on social networks;* Andrew Schmidt, University of Maryland; Paul Hanges, University of Maryland; Beng-Chong Lim, Nanyang Technological University

#### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 2:00-3:50PM**

##### **The Agony and Ecstasy of Innovation in Federal Surveys**

Innovation in the Federal government on long-standing federal surveys is both overwhelming and exciting and in some cases long overdue. Creating an environment of innovation in any organization is never easy let alone creating one across multiple organizations that share responsibilities for a project. The panel members in this session will provide insights into partnering for innovation on various aspects of the survey design.

*Organizer:* Lynda T. Carlson (National Science Foundation)

*Chair:* Lawrence D. Brown (University of Pennsylvania)

*Panelists:*



- Constance F. Citro, The National Academies: The Importance of Goal-Oriented Leadership for Innovation
- Jeri M. Mulrow, National Science Foundation, Partnership for Innovation
- Don A. Dillman, Washington State University, Overcoming Extremeness: The Survey Innovator's Essential Task

*Discussant:* Norman Bradburn, National Opinion Research Center

### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5th, 8:30-10:20 AM**

#### **The 2010 Census: status of the program, integrated communications, evaluations, and coverage measurement**

How are plans progressing for the 2010 Census? Attend this session to learn the most current information. August 2009 is only months away from the launch of data collection. The countdown begins!

*Organizer:* Daniel H. Weinberg, U.S. Census Bureau

*Chair:* Daniel H. Weinberg, U.S. Census Bureau

- *An overview of progress on the 2010 Census;* Arnold A. Jackson, U.S. Census Bureau
- *An integrated approach to communications;* Kendall Johnson, U.S. Census Bureau; Tasha Boone, U.S. Census Bureau
- *Evaluating the 2010 Census;* Jennifer W. Reichert, U.S. Census Bureau
- *Measuring coverage in the 2010 Census;* Patrick J. Cantwell, U.S. Census Bureau; Donna Kostanich, U.S. Census Bureau; Magdalena Ramos, U.S. Census Bureau

### **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5th, 1:30-12:20PM**

#### **Future of Random Digit Dial Telephone Surveys**

The viability of traditional landline random-digit-dial (RDD) telephone surveys is being challenged due to a declining response rates and a sharp increase in persons switching to cell phone services by eliminating landline services. This session will address these challenges and discuss how to minimize their impact. The panel members will represent some of the large-scale RDD surveys in the US: National Immunization Survey, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, National Household Education Survey, and California Health Interview Survey, and will discuss challenges that each survey faces, findings from studies examining challenges, and its future plans.

*Organizer:* Meena Khare, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC

*Chair:* Sunghee Lee, University California, Los Angeles

*Panelists:*

- Linda B. Piekarski, Survey Sampling International, LLC
- Meena Khare, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC
- James A. Singleton, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC
- Michael P. Battaglia, Abt Associates Inc.
- Michael J. Brick, Westat, Inc.
- David Grant, University of California, Los Angeles

The SSS and GSS sections are also cosponsoring a myriad of invited panel and paper sessions; visit the JSM online program at [www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/) to develop your full itinerary.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact our 2009 SSS Program Chair, Kathy O'Connor, at [koconnor1@cdc.gov](mailto:koconnor1@cdc.gov) or 301-458-4181, or our 2009 GSS Program Chair, Sunghee Lee at [slee9@ucla.edu](mailto:slee9@ucla.edu).

**What can you do to help the section?**

**Attend our sessions in 2009.** Each year, the section officers try to strengthen the SSS and GSS portion of the JSM program. You, our members, need to support these efforts and attend our sessions. Even better - attend our sessions with your colleagues!

**Help plan invited sessions for the section to sponsor in 2010.** It is time to think about topics for proposed invited sessions for the 2010 JSM. More information will be available in a future *AmStat News* article and our monthly e-newsletter. If you have any specific ideas or general suggestions, contact our 2010 SSS Program Chair, Dr. Joseph Salvo, at [jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:jsalvo@planning.nyc.gov) or our 2010 GSS Program Chair Lisa M. Blumerman, at [lisa.m.blumerman@census.gov](mailto:lisa.m.blumerman@census.gov).

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JSM 2009 NEWS: GSS POSTER CONTEST

Submitted by Sunghee Lee, JSM 2009 GSS Program Chair

The Government Statistics Section is holding its first annual poster contest at JSM 2009. In addition to a Regular Contributed Poster Session, there will be a Topic Contributed Poster Session sponsored by GSS this year. We have over 10 posters scheduled to be presented on **Monday, August 3, 2009 8:30--10:20 am**. The winner of the competition will be awarded a \$500 prize, and up to two honorable mentions will be awarded \$250. The awardees will be invited to the GSS Business Meeting and Social scheduled at **5:30 pm on Tuesday, August 4, 2009**, where their work will be re-displayed and recognized. The competition judges will include 2008, 2009, and 2010 GSS Program Chairs.

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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2009 GSS CORPORATE SPONSORS

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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

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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