

GSS/SSS September 2008 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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**[APDU 2008 Annual Conference](#)**

The 2008 Conference of the Association for Public Data Users (APDU) will take place Wednesday through Thursday, September 24-25, 2008 at the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C. The theme for this year's conference is "Federal Data in a Time of Change."

As the nation experiences significant changes in demographic circumstances and economic conditions, federal data are critical for tracking trends and framing issues and opportunities. The 2008 APDU conference at the Brookings Institution provides a unique forum for data users, producers, and intermediaries to learn about and discuss federal data programs, policies, tools, and uses.

For more information on registering for the conference, visit the APDU web site: <http://www.apdu.org/conference/2008/index.htm>. Session titles, abstracts, and names of confirmed speakers can be found at <http://www.apdu.org/conference/2008/program.pdf>.

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JSM 2009 in Washington, D.C.: Call for Invited Sessions from the Social Statistics Section and the Government Statistics Section

Submitted by Kathy O'Connor, SSS Program Chair

Although only a month has passed since the JSM 2008 meeting was held in Denver, the conference planning committee has already started to solicit invited sessions for 2009. The 2009 meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. with the broad theme "Statistics: From Evidence to Policy." You are encouraged to submit an innovative invited session proposal related to this theme, even if it attracts professionals that usually do not attend JSM (such as policymakers, science policy professionals, etc.). For more information and submission instructions please contact your SSS program chair, Kathy O'Connor, at 301-458-4181 or koconnor1@cdc.gov; or your GSS program chair, Sunghee Lee, at slee9@ucla.edu. Invited session proposals must be submitted by September 9th.

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**ASA Recognizes 2008 Fellows, including 8 GSS/SSS Members; Call for Nominations for 2009 Fellows**

At the JSM meetings in Denver, the American Statistical Association (ASA) presented its newest ASA Fellows. Several of our fellow GSS and SSS members were honored:

- Chet Bowie, National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, Bethesda, MD
- Steven G. Heeringa, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor, MI
- Joseph W. Hogan, Brown University, Providence
- Brian A. Harris-Kojetin, US Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC
- Karol P. Krotki, RTI International, Washington DC
- Jill M. Montaquila, Westat, Rockville, Maryland
- Eleanor Singer, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Alvan O. Zarate, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hyattsville, Maryland

If you have nominations for 2009 ASA Fellows, please forward them to Margo Anderson, Chair of the SSS Fellows Committee.

**More about Fellows of the American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), the nation's preeminent professional statistical society, announced the election of 53 of its members as Fellows of the Association. The recipients received the honor in recognition of their outstanding professional contributions to and leadership in the field of statistical science.

"The ASA Fellows designation honors the extraordinary members of the statistics profession," said Peter A. Lachenbruch, ASA president. "The collective outstanding contributions of this year's Fellows from academia, government and industry have invigorated the statistics discipline in education, research, administration and service. Each year, the designation as ASA Fellow brings members from many specialties to the fore. It makes us all proud to recognize their accomplishments."

The 2008 Fellows come from 23 states, Canada, and Israel. Eight Fellows are from the National Capital area; five are from North Carolina; Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Pennsylvania each are home to three Fellows.

The designation of Fellow has been a superlative honor in ASA for more than 90 years. According to the association by-laws, each year the Committee on Fellows can elect no more than one-third of one percent of the total ASA membership as Fellows. Individuals are nominated for the honor by fellow members and must have an established reputation and made outstanding contributions in some aspect of statistical work to be selected.

The Committee on Fellows evaluates candidates' contributions to the advancements of statistics, giving due weight to publications, the positions held by the candidates in the organizations in which they are employed, activities within the

Association, membership and attainments in other societies, and other professional activities. Selection committee members were Roderick J. Little (chair), Demissie Alemayehu, Rick Chappell, Christy Chuang-Stein, Cynthia Z.F. Clark, Roxy L. Peck, Bonnie K. Ray, John H. Thompson, Preston J. Waite.

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Call for Candidates to Run for the GSS and SSS Executive Boards

One of the responsibilities of past chairs of GSS and SSS is to propose a slate of candidates for the election to the executive boards. The next election is for officers starting on January 1, 2010. Steve Cohen, GSS Past Chair, sends a personal note to all interested parties, "I have found serving on the GSS Executive Board a very rewarding professional experience and have never regretted serving on the board." Both the GSS and SSS Boards have openings. If you are interested in running or want more information about these positions please contact Steve Cohen of the Government Statistics Section (scohen@nsf.gov or 703-292-7769) or Jennifer Madans of the Social Statistics Section (Jennifer.madans@cdc.hhs.gov).

Open positions in GSS: Chair, Program Chair for the 2011 JSM, and representative to the Council of Sections.
Open positions in SSS: Chair, Program Chair for the 2011 JSM, and representative to the Council of Sections.

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**Rosemary Marcuss, Recipient of the 2008 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award**

*by Ed Spar, COPAFS*

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee selected Rosemary Marcuss as the recipient of the 2008 award. Rosemary Marcuss has been Deputy Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) of the Department of Commerce since she joined the agency in 1998. Before that, she served for fifteen years as the Assistant Director for Tax Analysis of the U.S. Congressional Budget Office. Rosemary started her career in Washington as a junior staff member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. Rosemary holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland. She was a National Science Foundation fellow during her graduate studies at the University of Maryland.

Rosemary maintains a special interest in making economic statistics and economic analysis accessible and comprehensible to as many people as possible. In 2005, she served as President of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE), the organization most clearly identified with representing the interests of Federal Government statistical agencies and the needs of American business for timely and top-quality economic statistics. In addition, Rosemary has served on the boards of directors of the National Tax Association and the Washington D.C. National Economists Club. At present she serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the George Washington University School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

Steve Landefeld, Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis says that during her time at BEA, Rosemary has made mentoring and career development a central focus of the Bureau's work. Shortly after coming to BEA, Rosemary redesigned BEA's mentoring program, making it a model for other units in the Department of Commerce wishing to develop their own programs.

***About the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award***

The purpose of the award, in Jeanne E. Griffith's name, is to encourage mentoring of junior staff in the Federal statistical system.

Jeanne Griffith worked for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's highest priorities was to mentor and encourage junior staff to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

**Award Recipients:**

- Rich Allen, 2003
- Beth A. Kilss, 2004
- Renee Miller, 2005
- Martin O’Connell, 2006
- Stephanie Shipp, 2007
- Rosemary Marcuss, 2008



**Dr. Betsy Martin to Receive the 2008 Herriot Award for Innovation**

*by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Chair of the Award Committee*

Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Martin has been awarded the *2008 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics*. The award is sponsored jointly by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS), and the Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA).

In 2007 Elizabeth Martin retired from the Census Bureau where she had occupied the position of Senior Survey Methodologist since 1998. She was Chief of the Center for Survey Methods Research from 1986 through 1998, and before coming to the Census Bureau in 1986 worked at the Bureau of Social Science Research, the National Academy of Sciences, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Over her career at the Census Bureau, Betsy tackled many of the most pressing problems her agency faced and advanced the methodology of her discipline. Betsy was one of the leaders of the Cognitive Aspects of Survey Methodology movement, and, as one of her supporters made clear, “Betsy’s pioneering efforts to apply the principles of cognitive science to the development of survey questions, including work on the Panel on Survey Measurement of Subjective Phenomena, helped revolutionize the field of questionnaire design.” Betsy came to the Census Bureau in 1986 to head the Center for Survey Methods Research. Her contributions and innovations there include:

- Expanding the scope of social science research conducted at the Census Bureau;
- Building one of the first cognitive laboratories in the Federal government;
- Developing and mentoring the largest interdisciplinary staff of sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, statisticians, political scientists, and sociolinguists in the Federal statistical system, bringing together their intellectual perspectives to address measurement errors in Census Bureau surveys; and
- Developing and implementing an official pretesting policy for demographic surveys at the Census Bureau.

Betsy was instrumental in launching and guiding a comprehensive redesign of the Current Population Survey (CPS) in 1994 and, as one supporter noted, “excelled in the application of social science theory and methods to problems of measurement error in numerous Federal surveys, including the CPS, the National Crime Victimization Survey, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation.”

Betsy also made key innovations in the Decennial Census including:

- Improving the enumeration of people who do not live in “standard” residences, including the homeless;
- Improving Census communication materials and strategies to increase cooperation; and
- Researching better ways to ask race and ethnicity questions and coverage questions in the Census.

Dr. Martin was named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1998. In 1997 she was recognized by the Department of Commerce for “contributions that use social science methods to improve the quality of data collected in censuses and surveys” and was awarded the Silver Medal. She is a former president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. Betsy received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Sociology in 1974. Her articles can be found in *Demography*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Journal of Official Statistics*, and other journals, proceedings, and collections, and she was co-editor of the acclaimed National Academy of Sciences report *Surveying Subjective Phenomena* (1984).

Since retiring, Betsy has been active in the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, and serves on Fairfax County's Wetlands Board. She is a certified Virginia Master Naturalist (Fairfax Chapter), and has taken up watercolor painting. Her only survey work since retirement is a prevalence survey of butterfly species in her front yard.

**About the Roger Herriot Award**

Soon after his death in 1994, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections along with the Washington Statistical Society established the *Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics* intended to recognize individuals who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs. The award is meant to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger's career.

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Kirsten Lum, Recipient of the Wray Jackson Smith 2008 Scholarship

Submitted by Michael Cohen, Chair of the Award Committee



The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee selected Kirsten Lum as the 2008 scholarship winner. Kirsten was a student at American University at the time of selection but will be a doctoral student at the George Washington University this fall. This award provides funds for Kirsten's participation in the ENAR/IBS 2009 Spring Meetings in San Antonio, TX. She will be presenting on methods for joint modeling of longitudinal and survival time data. This is joint work with Dr. Rajeshwari Sundaram and Dr. Germaine Buck Louis, both from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). She began working on this project as an intern at NICHD in the summer of 2007. Kirsten was also a presenter at JSM 2008 in Session 267 (Methods for Survival Time Analyses). She spoke on "Joint Model of Longitudinal Binary Data with Discrete Survival Time." Members of the 2008 Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee were Michael P. Cohen (chair), Robert A. Kominski, and Stephen L. Campbell.

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**John Czajka, Recipient of the Patricia J. Doyle Award**

*Submitted by Robert Lussier and Wendy Alvey, Government Statistics Section*

The Patricia J. Doyle Award was established to recognize exceptional service to the Government Statistics Section. A panel made up of Carol House, current GSS chair; Stephen Cohen, past GSS chair; and Robert Lussier, in-coming GSS chair, selected this year's recipient of the award. The award, the fourth to be given since its creation, goes to John L. Czajka, from Mathematica Policy Research in Washington, DC.

John has a long history of serving the ASA and the GSS. He has been an active Chapter member in Washington, DC for many years. As Secretary/Treasurer of the Social Statistics Section (SSS) in 1994-1995, John was instrumental in bringing the SSS and GSS together to produce a joint newsletter. The Sections' first joint newsletter appeared in the winter of 1995 – an effort that helped the Social Statistics Section communicate more effectively with its members, while assisting the Government Statistics Section with the costs of producing a bi-annual newsletter. As Publications Officer for SSS, he also played a role in the development of a joint *Proceedings* volume for the two Sections, which also had mutual benefits.

In 2000, John served as Program Chair for the Government Statistics Section at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Indianapolis. That was followed by his election as Chair of the Section in 2002. John then went on to serve as one of the ASA's Representatives to the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics in 2004-2005.

During his tenure, John was a careful and conscientious caretaker of the GSS' limited treasury, spending many hours trying to understand and unscramble the complicated ASA accounting system that provides separate accounting for Joint Sections and single Sections. In addition, John was instrumental in

- the development and support of the GSS Corporate Sponsor program, which he coordinated because of his role in the private sector;
- the development and support of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship and organization of a memorial session in 2001; and
- the establishment of the Pat Doyle Award, itself, for which he is now being honored.

John was elected ASA Fellow in 2003.

A long-time researcher at Mathematica Policy Research, John's professional contributions include numerous papers and sessions on administrative records, analysis of income and wealth, and effectiveness of programs involving the tax and transfer system – especially via data collected by the Survey of Income and Program Participation – and his more recent work in the area of children's health insurance coverage.

His commitment on the use of statistics to help managers make policy decisions and his work for the section honor Pat's similar role in her shortened lifetime. Please join me in thanking John for his many contributions with the presentation of this Patricia J. Doyle Award – and to encourage him to keep up the good work in the years ahead! We do not know what we would do without his wise counsel!

## 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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## 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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