

**GSS/SSS OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER**  
**Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections**  
**American Statistical Association**

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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- **NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HERRIOT AWARD    NEW!**
- **PLANNING FOR JSM 2011: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS AND TO SUBMIT CONTRIBUTED SESSION ABSTRACTS    NEW!**
- **ANNOUNCEMENT: FCSM STATISTICAL POLICY SEMINAR "BEYOND OUR TRADITIONS: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO LONGSTANDING AND EMERGING CHALLENGES"    NEW!**

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

|                 |                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>December</b> |                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1</b>        | JSM 2011: abstract submission opens                                                                                     |
| <b>14-15</b>    | FCSM Statistical Policy Seminar: "Beyond Our Traditions: Innovative Approaches to Longstanding and Emerging Challenges" |
| <b>February</b> |                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1</b>        | JSM 2011: last day to submit an abstract (11:59 p.m. Eastern)                                                           |
| <b>April</b>    |                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1</b>        | Nomination deadline for Herriot Award                                                                                   |

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**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HERRIOT AWARD    NEW!**

*Submitted by Robert Fay, Chair of the Herriot Award Committee and Social Statistics Section Representative, 2010-2011*

Nominations are sought for the 2011 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, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2011 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 \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2011. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

The previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award are Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (NCHS), Constance Citro (CNStat), Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (Census Bureau), Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau), Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS), Nancy Kirkendall (EIA), Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau), Lynda Carlson (NSF), and Katharine Abraham (U of MD).

Nominations for the 2011 award will be accepted beginning in February 2011. 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 demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
- A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information. For more information, contact Robert Fay, Chair, 2011 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 240-314-2318 or [bobfay@westat.com](mailto:bobfay@westat.com). Completed packages must be received **by April 1, 2011**. 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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**PLANNING FOR JSM 2011: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS AND TO SUBMIT CONTRIBUTED SESSION ABSTRACTS NEW!**

*Submitted by Nancy Clusen, SSS 2011 Program Chair, and Iris Shimizu, GSS 2011 Program Chair*

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO CHAIR CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS**

If you are going to attend the 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami (July 30 - August 4, 2011), you are invited to volunteer as a contributed session chair for SSS or GSS-sponsored sessions. To volunteer, please contact Nancy Clusen (SSS 2011 Program Chair, [NClusen@Mathematica-Mpr.com](mailto:NClusen@Mathematica-Mpr.com)) or Iris Shimizu (GSS 2011 Program Chair, [IShimizu@cdc.gov](mailto:IShimizu@cdc.gov)).

**CALL TO SUBMIT CONTRIBUTED SESSION ABSTRACTS**

The 2011 SSS and GSS program chairs encourage you to organize a contributed session and submit an abstract for the 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). The theme of JSM 2011 will be “Statistics – An All-encompassing Discipline.” There are two types of contributed sessions: regular and topic-contributed. Before you submit an abstract to ASA for a topic-contributed session, please contact Nancy Clusen (SSS 2011 Program Chair) or Iris Shimizu (GSS 2011 Program Chair) at the email addresses above. They will keep track of the sessions SSS or GSS may either sponsor or co-sponsor.

**TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSIONS**

These sessions consist of a collection of contributed talks and discussions (if desired) that share a common topic. The sessions are **110 minutes in length**. There must be **five presentations (including discussants)** of 20 minutes each, with 10 minutes at the end for floor discussion and concluding remarks by the session chair. There are three (3) format options for a Topic-Contributed paper session:

1. Five (5) papers
2. Four (4) papers and one (1) discussant
3. Three (3) papers and two (2) discussants

All speakers in a Topic-Contributed paper session **MUST** submit an abstract to the ASA office by **February 1, 2011**. On the abstract form, speakers should indicate that they are speaking in a Topic-Contributed session and give the name of the session organizer.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In the past, a few Sections have organized some Topic-Contributed sessions after the February 1st deadline using Regular Contributed submissions. This will not be permitted for 2011. Consequently, it is essential to begin organizing Topic-Contributed sessions well before the **February 1, 2011** deadline. The period between October and December 2010 is the ideal time to organize such sessions.

**TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED PANEL SESSIONS**

These sessions are **110 minutes in length**. The traditional panel discussion format is used, wherein a **minimum of three and a maximum of five panelists** provide commentary on a particular topic. Panels each require **ONE ABSTRACT** submitted by the organizer and received by **February 1, 2011**. As with any Topic-Contributed session, the Topic-Contributed panel organizer must coordinate efforts through the appropriate JSM Program Committee member

**TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED POSTER SESSIONS**

Effective since JSM 2003, Contributed poster sessions may include *Topic-Contributed poster clusters*. A Topic-Contributed poster cluster will contain approximately three to six posters on a given topic, with roughly the same degree of intellectual cohesion as is expected of a Topic-Contributed paper session. Either application, methodological, or theoretical themes may define the topics for a given cluster. Examples include:

- Analysis of Phase III Clinical Trials
- Seasonal Adjustment of Economic Time Series
- Analysis of Point Source Pollution Data
- CUSUM Charts
- Sequential Analysis
- Application of MCMC Methods to the Analysis of Complex Survey Data
- Calibration and Related Inverse Problems
- Empirical Processes

Topic-Contributed poster clusters can provide a nice format in which several colleagues can present different perspectives on a statistical controversy, or can present side-by-side analyses of an especially challenging dataset. The posters within a cluster will be presented at the same time. Organization and submission of a Topic-Contributed poster cluster will follow the same pattern and timeline as used for a Topic-Contributed paper session.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Federal Committee On Statistical Methodology  
Statistical Policy Seminar**

***Beyond Our Traditions: Innovative Approaches to  
Longstanding and Emerging Challenges  
December 14-15, 2010***

**The Tenth in a Series of Seminars Hosted by COPAFS  
(The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics)**

Participants will include statisticians, economists, and managers, as well as other professionals in the broader statistical community who share an interest in keeping current on issues related to federal data.

**Support Provided by:**

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \* Bureau of Economic Analysis \* Bureau of Justice Statistics \* Bureau of Labor Statistics \* Economic Research Service \*  
Energy Information Administration \* Environmental Protection Agency \* National Agricultural Statistics Service \* National Center for Education Statistics \* National Center for Health Statistics \* Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics of the Social Security Administration \* Statistics of Income Division of the Internal Revenue Service \* Science Resources  
Statistics/National Science Foundation \* U.S. Census Bureau

**Topics Will Include:**

- Examining the Costs of Federal Surveys
- External Peer Reviews of Major Statistical Programs
- Future Directions in Questionnaire Testing
- Data Quality of Administrative Records
- Addressing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Surveys
- Gaining and Tracking Participation in the 2010 Decennial Census
- Emerging Issues in Disclosure Avoidance
- Emerging Challenges in Federal Statistics
- Metadata and Paradata

**Keynote Address:** John Thompson, President  
National Opinion Research Center

**Location and Seminar Cost:**

Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, Washington, DC 20001

**Cost: \$195.00 per person**

**For Further Information, Contact the COPAFS Office at:**

Phone: 703-836-0404      Email: [copafs@aol.com](mailto:copafs@aol.com)      Fax: 703-836-0406

The registration form is available at the COPAFS web site at: [www.copafs.org](http://www.copafs.org)

## 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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**2010 GSS CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor  
Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS), National Science Foundation (NSF)  
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

**2011 GSS CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS), National Science Foundation (NSF)

## 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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