

GSS/SSS December 2008 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/>

GSS Publications Officer: Sonya L. Vartivarian
(SVartivarian@Mathematica-MPR.com)

SSS Publications Officer: Sharon M. Stern
(sharon.m.stern@census.gov)

Newsletter Editor: Carrie R. Dennis
(carrie.r.dennis@census.gov)

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**Planning for JSM 2009: Volunteers to Chair Contributed Sessions**

*Submitted by Kathy O'Connor, 2009 Program Chair for the Social Statistics Section*

If you are going to attend the 2009 JSM meeting in Washington DC (August 2 - 6, 2009) and wish to volunteer as a **contributed session chair** for SSS or GSS-sponsored sessions, please contact Kathy O'Connor (SSS Program Chair 2009, [koconnor1@cdc.gov](mailto:koconnor1@cdc.gov)) or Sunghee Lee (GSS Program Chair 2009, [slee9@ucla.edu](mailto:slee9@ucla.edu)). There are two types of contributed sessions: **regular contributed** and **topic-contributed**.

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Planning for JSM 2009: Call for Contributed Session Abstracts

Submitted by Kathy O'Connor, 2009 Program Chair for the Social Statistics Section

The 2009 SSS and GSS program chairs encourage you to organize a contributed session and submit an abstract for the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). It will be held in Washington DC from August 2-6, 2009, with the theme "Statistics: From Evidence to Policy". There are two types of contributed sessions: regular and topic-contributed. Before you submit the abstract to ASA for a contributed session, please contact Kathy O'Connor (SSS Program Chair 2009, koconnor1@cdc.gov) or Sunghee Lee (GSS Program Chair 2009, slee9@ucla.edu). They will keep track of the sessions SSS or GSS may either sponsor or co-sponsor.

Parameters for contributed session options are listed below. All abstracts must be submitted online at the ASA website from **December 1, 2008 through February 2, 2009 (due by 3:00 PM Eastern, 12 Noon Pacific).**

Topic-contributed paper session:

- 110 minutes in length; collection of contributed talks & discussions that share a common topic
- Must be 5 presentations (including discussants) of 20 minutes each, with 10 minutes of floor discussion at the end
- Three format options: Five (5) papers; **OR** four (4) papers and one (1) discussant; **OR** three (3) papers and two (2) discussants
- All speakers must submit an abstract to ASA, and indicate they are in a topic-contributed session (give the name of the organizer)
- Coordinate through the JSM program committee member

Topic-contributed panel session:

- 110 minutes in length; panel discussion format; panel members provide commentary on a particular topic
- Minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) panelists; panels each require ONE abstract submitted by the organizer
- Coordinate through the JSM program committee member

Topic-contributed poster cluster:

- Three (3) to six (6) posters on a related topic - theme can be applied, methodology-related, or theoretical

Regular contributed session:

- 110 minutes in length
- Opening remarks by session chair (5 minutes), followed by six (6) or seven (7) speakers (15 minutes each)
- If 6 speakers: 15 minutes of floor discussion at the end; if 7 speakers: no discussant or floor discussion

Contributed poster:

- 110 minute session
- 8 ft by 4 ft board

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**Planning for JSM 2009: Student Paper Competition**

*Submitted by Kathy O'Connor, 2009 Program Chair for the Social Statistics Section*

The 2009 program chairs for the Social Statistics, Government Statistics, and Survey Research Methods sections are pleased to announce a competition for student and post-graduate papers to be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Washington, DC on August 2 - 6, 2009. Papers entered in this competition must involve either a new statistical methodology, or a creative application of statistical analysis to a problem, issue, or policy question pertinent to the subject area of one of the sponsoring sections. The competition announcement is posted below. All materials are due by 5 PM Eastern Standard Time on Friday December 19, 2008. If you have any questions please contact Kathy O'Connor, the 2009 JSM SSS program chair.

**2009 Student Paper Competition  
Sponsored by a Consortium of Sections**

The Social Statistics, Government Statistics, and Survey Research Methods Sections are pleased to announce a competition for student and post-graduate papers to be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Washington, DC on August 2 - 6, 2009. At least five awards will be granted. Winning papers are presented by the authors at a JSM session and recognized at the Sections' business meetings. A subsidy of up to \$800 is provided to each winner to cover JSM 2009 expenses.

To be eligible to participate you must be a current undergraduate or graduate student at any level (i.e., Masters or Doctorate), or a 2008 graduate who presents research conducted as a student. *Faculty members are urged to encourage students to apply for these awards.*

Papers entered in this competition must involve either a new statistical methodology, or a creative application of statistical analysis to a problem, issue, or policy question pertinent to the subject area of one of the sponsoring sections. The research does not have to be complete, but competitors must be able to submit an abstract prospectus that describes the planned research and nature of the intended innovation(s).

To apply, please send the requested materials below to either Kathy O'Connor (SSS Program Chair 2009, [koconnor1@cdc.gov](mailto:koconnor1@cdc.gov)) or Sunghee Lee (GSS Program Chair 2009, [slee9@ucla.edu](mailto:slee9@ucla.edu)). If you do not have access to email, please call Kathy O'Connor at (301) 458-4181 to make other arrangements.

The application must include:

1. a cover letter with the applicant's name, current affiliation and status, and contact information (address, telephone, e-mail);
2. an abstract (300 words maximum);
3. a draft paper (if available); otherwise, a 3-page research prospectus; and
4. a letter from his/her adviser that certifies the applicant's status (e.g., current student or new graduate who completed the degree within the past year), and describes plans to complete the research.

**All materials must be received by December 19, 2008. Winners will be notified by mid-January 2009, and must register for JSM by February 2, 2009 at 3 PM Eastern (12:00 Noon Pacific).**

If a student receives more than one award (i.e., he/she receives the SSS/GSS/SRMS Student Paper award in addition to an award hosted by another section(s)), he/she must immediately inform the other cosponsoring sections and decline one of the awards.

Please refer to the section websites below for updates:

Social Statistics Section <http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>

Government Statistics Section <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>

Survey Research Methods Section <http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html>

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Planning for JSM 2009: GSS Contributed Poster Contest

Submitted by Carol House, Chair of the Government Statistics Section

Thinking about contributing a paper to JSM? Why not contribute that paper through a "poster" format. The Government Statistics Section is initiating a new annual **competition for "best poster"** presentation at JSM to encourage both the quantity and quality of poster submissions. Winner of the best poster will receive \$500 plus two years of free membership in GSS. Honorable Mentions will receive \$250. Winning posters will be re-displayed at the GSS Business Meeting and Social.

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### **Challenges and Opportunities for the Statistics Profession and the American Statistical Association**

Speaker: Ronald L. Wasserstein, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
American Statistical Association

Sponsor: Office of Biostatistics Research  
Division of Prevention and Population Sciences  
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute  
(Bio)Statistics Seminar Series

Date/Time: Thursday, January 22, 2009 / 11am - noon

Location: Conference Room 9091  
Two Rockledge Center, 6701 Rockledge Drive,  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Abstract: From his perspective as ASA's Executive Director, Ron Wasserstein will discuss seven sets of challenges and opportunities he sees as particularly important for our profession, and for the ASA. These include: membership, the statistical pipeline, visibility and impact of the profession, publications, meetings, internationalization/globalization, and accreditation. Each set includes questions for the participants, so a large portion of the time will be spent in audience discussion.

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Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award - Open for Nominations

Submitted by Carol House, Chair of the Government Statistics Section

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring award is intended to encourage the mentoring of junior staff in the Federal statistical community. It is co-sponsored by the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section, the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, the Council for Excellence in Government, the Washington Statistical Society, and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. It is awarded annually to a supervisor who is nominated by co-workers and supervisors for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium and a citation, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2009.

Guidelines:

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee.

- The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior staff in the Federal statistical community in development of their careers.
- Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.
- See GSS website for more details (<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>).

Deadline:

All nominations should be mailed or emailed no later than March 27, 2009. Please send to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee
c/o The American Statistical Association
732 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
jeannegriffithaward@amstat.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.

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

Carol C. House

Chair, 2008

carol_house@nass.usda.gov

Sonya Vartivarian

Publications Officer, 2007-08

SVartivarian@mathematica-mpr.com

Robert Lussier

Chair-Elect, 2008

robert.lussier@statcan.gc.ca

Chet Bowie

COPAFS Rep, 2007-08

bowie-chet@norc.org

Stephen Cohen

Past-Chair, 2008

scohen@nsf.gov

Stephanie Shipp

COPAFS Rep, 2008-09

stephanie.shipp@nist.gov

Michael E. Davern

Program Chair, 2008

daver004@umn.edu

Carrie R. Dennis

Newsletter Editor

carrie.r.dennis@census.gov

Sunghee Lee

Program Chair-Elect, 2008

slee9@ucla.edu

Bill Wong

Assistant Editor, *Amstat Online*

bjwg@yahoo.com

Lester R. Curtin

Secretary/Treasurer, 2007-08

lrc2@cdc.gov

Tai Phan

GSSLIST Coordinator

tai.phan@ed.gov

Carolee Bush

Council of Sections Rep, 2007-09

cbush2000@aol.com

Monica Clark

ASA Ex Officio

monica@amstat.org

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.

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

Linda Gage

Chair, 2008

Linda.Gage@dof.ca.gov

Dawn Haines

Secretary/Treasurer 2008-09

dawn.e.haines@census.gov

Allen L. Schirm

Chair-Elect, 2008

aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com

Daniel Weinberg

Council of Sections Rep, 2007-09

Daniel.H.Weinberg@census.gov

Jennifer H. Madans

Past-Chair, 2008

Jennifer.madans@cdc.hhs.gov

Sharon M. Stern

Publications Officer, 2007-08

sharon.m.stern@census.gov

Jana L. Asher

Program Chair, 2008

jana@asher-resnick.us

Monica D. Clark

Staff Liaison

monica@amstat.org

Kathleen S. O'Connor

Program Chair-Elect, 2008

koconnor1@cdc.gov