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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Executive Committee Elected

The IASE Transition Team is pleased to announce the results of the election of officers for the 1993-95 term. The officers are:

President: David Moore (USA)

David S. Moore is professor of statistics at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA. His publications include many research papers in statistical theory and two widely used college level statistics textbooks. Dr. Moore is a pioneer in the development of statistics instruction by video, has served as chair of the American Statistical Association's section on statistical education, and is a member of the ICOTS 4 program committee.

President-Elect: Anne Hawkins (UK)

Anne Hawkins is research fellow and lecturer in medical statistics at the University College Hospital School of Medicine in London, England. Her previous experience includes positions as lecturer at the University of London Institute of Education and director of the London Regional Centre for Statistical Education. Dr. Hawkins serves on the editorial Board of *Teaching Statistics* and on the Royal Statistical Society's Council and Education Committee. In 1988 she organized and convened the ISI round-table conference on "Training Teachers to Teach Statistics".

Vice-President: Giuseppe Cicchitelli (Italy)

Giuseppe Cicchitelli is professor of statistics in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy, and director of the Interuniversity Centre for Statistical Education, involving the universities of Padova, Perugia and Roma. He is the author of several university textbooks, his current research interests being in the areas of finite population sampling and statistical education at university level. Dr. Cicchitelli chairs the Local Organizing Committee for IASE's first scientific meeting which will be held in Perugia on August 23-24.

Vice-President: Annie Morin (France)

Annie M.J. Morin is professor of statistics at Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et Administration Economique, Malakoff, France. Her main research interests have been in the fields of statistical education, statistical pattern recognition, and quality control. Dr.

Morin holds office in a number of statistical societies, including Société de Statistique de France and Association pour la Statistique et ses Utilisations.

Vice-President: Brian Phillips (Australia)

Brian Phillips is principal lecturer at the Department of Mathematics, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. He has been a major contributor to projects involving the development of self-paced courses in mathematics, the production of work books for secondary students, and the development of courses involving the use of computers in the teaching of statistics. He regularly runs courses for industry and commerce on statistical methods and packages.

Vice-President: Richard Scheaffer (USA)

Richard L. Scheaffer is professor of statistics at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, USA, where he chaired the Department of Statistics for a period of 12 years. He is co-author of four textbooks and many research papers in sampling, probability and mathematical statistics. Dr. Scheaffer was one of the developers of the Quantitative Literacy Project and has directed much of his effort in recent years toward statistics education in the college curriculum, as well as at the elementary and secondary school levels.

The newly elected Executive Committee will assume office at the first General Assembly of the Association, which will take place during the 49th Session of the ISI in Florence, Italy.

First General Assembly

This has been scheduled for Friday, August 27, at 16:30. At this meeting, the Transitional Executive Committee will present a report on its activities over the past two years to the membership.

First Scientific Meeting - Perugia, 23-24 August

With an impressive list of Invited Speakers in hand, and a fine selection of Contributed Papers, the organizers are in the final stages of detailing the program for this two-day satellite conference. A second notice is being readied and will soon be circulated to participants and members of the Association. The program covers a wide spectrum of topics, reflecting the many areas of interest and expertise among the participants. For more information, contact Professor G. Cicchitelli, Dipartimento di Scienze Statistiche, Università di Perugia, Via A Pascoli, 0611 Perugia, Italy. E-mail: STATLI@IPGUNIV.ERN; FAX: 01039-75-43242.

Forum on Future Directions for the IASE

An open forum will be held during the Perugia conference at which participants will have the chance to discuss the future role and activities of the new Association, and to make specific proposals for consideration by the incoming Executive Committee. The forum is scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday, 24 August.

To Morocco in 1994

As previously announced, ICOTS 4 (the Fourth International Conference On Teaching Statistics) will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 25 to 30 July, 1994. This newsletter will carry updates on the program in the next few issues. In the meantime, inquiries may be addressed to the chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Mr. Abdelaziz El-Ghazali, INSEA, P.O. Box 6217, Rabat-Institut, Rabat, Morocco, or to the chairman of the Programme Committee, Professor Yves Escoufier, Université Montpellier II, Science et Technique du Languedoc, Place E Bataillon, 34095 Montpellier, Cedex 5, France.

OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings

The annual Joint Statistical Meetings of the American Statistical Association (ASA), which will be held this year in San Francisco from 8-12 August, will include a number of sessions and roundtable discussions organized by the ASA Section on Statistical Education. In addition, a session cosponsored by the ASA Council of Chapters will address the problems of "Coordinating Statistical Education among Junior Colleges, State Universities, and Universities Offering Ph.D.'s."

Prior to the ASA meetings, a symposium on "Modern Interdisciplinary University Statistics Education" will be held, also in San Francisco, on August 6-7. This symposium is being organized by the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics (CATS) of the US National Research Council. It will focus on the changes needed to incorporate interdisciplinary training into university programs on the upper-undergraduate and graduate levels and to encourage faculty participation in such programs. For more information, write to: Dr. John Tucker, Program Officer for CATS, Board on Mathematical Sciences, National Research Council, NAS 312, 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20418, USA.

Certification for Statisticians

A recent move towards the certification of statisticians in the UK, and continuing discussions which may lead to a similar move in the US, will undoubtedly have a considerable impact on statistical education and the training of statisticians in the two countries and elsewhere. Essentially, the idea is to define certain minimum standards and qualifications that must be attained by statisticians who earn that credential.

In the UK, it was recently announced that its two leading statistical professional societies (The Royal Statistical Society and the Institute of Statisticians) had formally merged at the beginning of the year into one organization which will be known as the Royal Statistical Society. With that merger came the establishment of a new certification for statisticians, the credential: "Chartered Statistician". To qualify for this title, one should have the "proper levels of academic qualifications and experience". In its announcement, the Society adds that it will be seeking to establish this credential as a "benchmark of professional expertise".

At the American Statistical Association, the Committee on the Certification of Statisticians has also been studying the possibility of an accreditation program. There have been open meetings at which the matter was discussed, and others are expected to take place later in the year. At the time of writing the committee was preparing to submit a preliminary plan to the association's Board of Directors, outlining a proposed certification program.

The Journal of Statistics Education (JSE)

In the article "Electronic Communications as a Tool in Statistics Education", which appeared in the January 1993 issue of this Newsletter, Tim Arnold previewed the publication of JSE and discussed the importance of this new development in electronic access to information. The Journal is now ready to receive papers to be considered for publication (see boxed announcement). At a later date, when the first issue becomes ready for access, there will be further announcements indicating how to obtain a subscription. There will be no charge for subscribing. JSE is supported by the Statistics Department of North Carolina State University, USA. Both its Editor, Jacquelin Dietz, and its Managing Editor, Tim Arnold, are members of that department. Dr. Arnold is scheduled to speak on the subject of Electronic Communications at the IASE conference in Perugia on August 23.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Journal of Statistics Education (JSE) is a new electronic journal on postsecondary statistics education. JSE will publish high-quality articles on a wide variety of topics related to the teaching of statistics. The journal will also publish reviews of software, books, and teaching materials; reviews should be descriptions of an instructor's experiences actually using a particular book or piece of software with students. Articles that make innovative use of the electronic medium are encouraged. Articles submitted to the journal will be reviewed by three referees.

Submission of manuscripts via e-mail is preferred, but materials on diskette or paper can be accommodated. The electronic format of the journal requires that articles follow certain formatting conventions; consult the Guidelines for Authors before submitting materials to JSE. The Guidelines for Authors may be obtained by sending e-mail to archive@jse.stat.ncsu.edu with the one-line message (no subject is needed): send jse/author.guide. Guidelines may also be obtained by writing to E. Jacquelin Dietz, Editor, JSE, Department of Statistics, Box 8203, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-8203, USA.

CHINESE TRAINING OF STUDENTS FOR STATISTICAL CONSULTING

The following article was contributed by Professor Jinglong Wang of East China Normal University in Shanghai. The author describes how the combination of active participation in local surveys and academic instruction prepare their students for the practice of statistical consulting.

Statistical Practice in Sample Surveys

Statistical practice is one of the major requirements for students in our department in the last two undergraduate years. For Juniors, it is a requirement associated with the course in Sample Surveys, while Senior students incorporate it into their individual studies leading towards their bachelors degree. On both levels, this has proved to be a valuable tool in preparing our students to become statistical consultants. To illustrate this, we look at our experience in surveys conducted during 1990 and 1991.

Our department has a cooperative relationship with the Shanghai Urban Social and Economic Survey Bureau, and members of the Bureau joined the team of students and faculty members during initial planning stages. After the necessary background information was supplied by Bureau members, the students carried out a discussion on the survey, worked out a plan, and designed the questionnaire - consulting with faculty and Bureau members when necessary. The plan was ultimately approved by the Bureau.

After two weeks of data collection, each student was asked to analyze the data and prepare a survey report. The individual reports were discussed by the team and - again under the guidance of faculty and Bureau members - the students arrived at one final report for the survey.

Four surveys were carried out simultaneously by four groups of students. One survey used stratified two-stage random sampling to study citizens' breakfast consumption and involved a sample of 1000. Another team surveyed the cosmetics market. A third surveyed the

quality of service in the food market. Our students' reports on these three surveys were very well received and adopted by the relevant organizations and given wide publicity. A fourth survey, dealing with families' purchasing power and ownership of videos, was less successful as a survey but no doubt a very worthwhile learning experience for our students.

On another occasion, our students participated in a sample survey by the Bureau on the utilization of the telephone directory, its editing, distribution and advertising. Over 700 organizations were targeted by the questionnaire, which was again prepared by the students, and there was almost 100 percent response.

Throughout the various stages in which the surveys were conducted, from planning to report preparation, the students were attending lectures in sample survey methods that were relevant to their practice. Their hands-on experience provided useful feedback, and they were encouraged to make the best application of their theoretical knowledge to the practical problems with which they were dealing.

It was gratifying to both the faculty and students to receive subsequent praise from the Bureau for the students' contributions. The students themselves found the experience both enjoyable and a significant stepping-stone in the direction of independent consulting.

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ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

TEACHER BURSARIES FOR STATISTICAL EDUCATION

The Royal Statistical Society is introducing a number of bursaries to support school teachers who wish to undertake a postgraduate course in statistical education in the United Kingdom. Each bursary will be worth £750 and will be available from September 1993.

The bursaries are part of an increasing drive by the Society to support statistical education in schools. We believe that statistics as a subject is too little appreciated either by the general public or by the world of industry and commerce. Yet it has a vital role to play: first, in underpinning success in business, science and industry; second, in enabling citizens to evaluate and make valid inferences from data and information with which they come into daily contact.

It is important, therefore, that the statistical message is spread properly at an early age. Insight into the purpose and wide-ranging usefulness of the subject can be given by teachers in schools, and the Society wishes to support these teachers. It hopes that these bursaries will prove to be a small but significant step in contributing to the professional development of teachers in schools.

The bursaries may be used to support any appropriate course in statistical education. Courses may be part-time or full-time, for one or more years, and will normally be offered by universities or colleges of higher education. In considering applications, the committee will give weight to courses which enable teachers to improve the statistical education which they offer to students in schools.

It is hoped that those teachers awarded bursaries will become active members of the Society, and contribute in the future to its educational activities.

Application forms may be obtained from:

The Executive Secretary, Royal Statistical Society, 25 Enford Street, London, W1H 2BH, UK.

Telephone: 071-723-5882

Closing date for applications: 30 June 1993.

Similar bursaries will be available in future years.