



Education at ASA

Martha Aliaga

Director of Programs





ASA Headquarters Building



**732 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia**



Resources for Educators

❖ Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM)

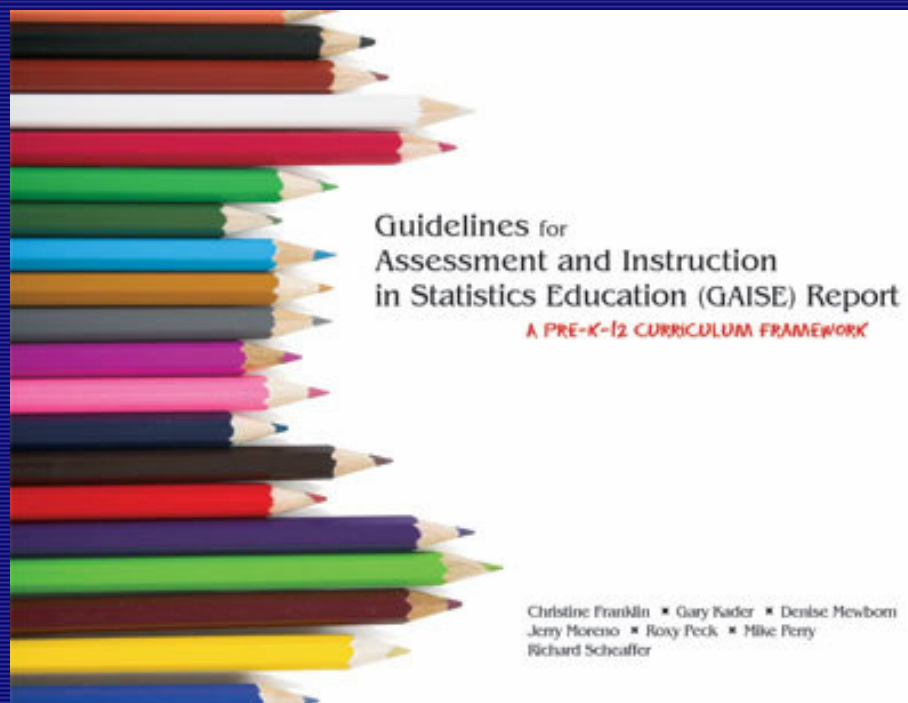
- One-day meeting on July 30, 2007 for Middle School and Junior High Math and Science Teachers
- Will enhance understanding and teaching of statistics within the math curriculum based on conceptual understanding, active learning, real world data, and appropriate technology
- Features activity-based sessions including lesson plan development



Resources for Educators

❖ Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM)

Based on the GAISE (Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education) report developed by ASA





International

❖ Educational Ambassador

The **Committee on International Relations in Statistics** launched the Educational Ambassador program in 2005. The program was developed to advance lasting collaborations between ASA and other international associations for permanent knowledge exchanges.



International

Who qualifies to become an Educational Ambassador?



- **A Ph.D. in Statistics**
- **An Interest in Teaching**
- **Open to Study a New Area of Research**



International

What will these Educational Ambassadors do?

These Educational Ambassadors will be subsidized to attend two Joint Statistical Meetings, attend a Continuing Education course in an emerging area of research, and receive one year ASA full membership



International

What is next?

The Educational Ambassadors will then agree to return to their home country and within the next year, teach a class with no less than 10 people the subject matter of the CE course (called International LearnSTAT, the presentation of this course in the Educational Ambassador's country will be financially subsidized by the ASA).



International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2005

Diana Kelmansky

University of Buenos Aires, **Argentina**



International LearnSTAT in Ecuador



International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2005

Course taken at JSM 2005: *Analysis of Gene Expression Data* presented by Dr. Terrence Speed *et al.*





International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2005

Course presented at JSM 2006 on Wednesday, August 9,
Building Statistical Capacity in Developing Countries
(Section 394)





International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2005

2006 presentations: Mexico





International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2005

2006 presentations: Mexico, Ecuador and Argentina

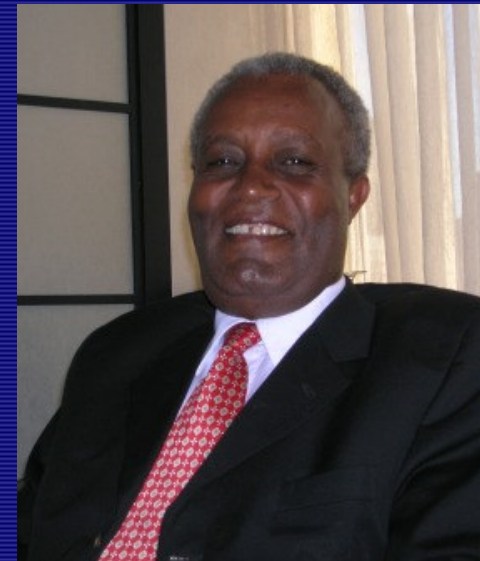




International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2006

Eshetu Wencheke
Addis Abbaba University
Ethiopia





International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2006

Courses taken at JSM 2006: *Generalized Linear Mixed Models: Theory and Applications* presented by Dr. Oliver Schabenberger and

Generalized Linear and Latent Mixed Models presented by Sophia Rabe-Hesketh and Anders Skrandal





International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2006

Course presented at JSM 2007 on Wednesday, August 1,
Challenges with Statistical Education in Developing Countries: A Case Study





International



**Diana Kelmansky and Eshetu Wencheke at JSM 2006 with
Continuing Education Course presenters**



International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2007

Le Thi Thanh Loan

University of Economics in Hochiminh City

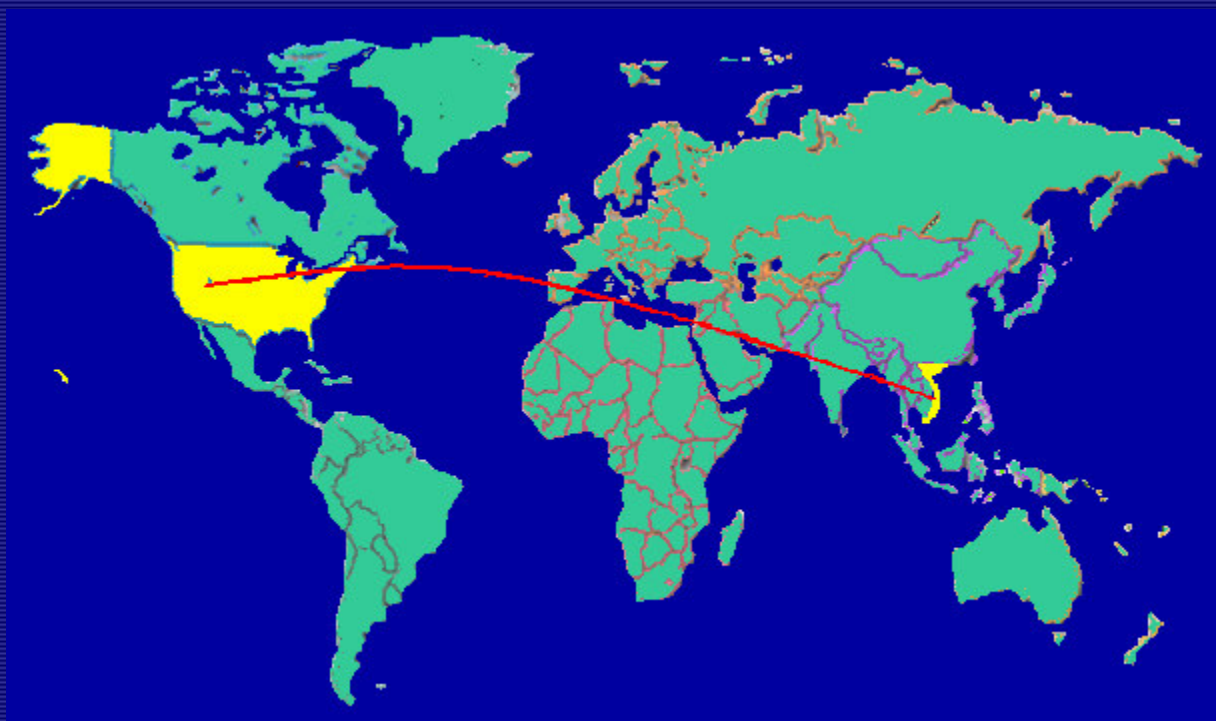
Vietnam



International

❖ Educational Ambassador 2007

Course taken at JSM 2007: *Latent Class Analysis of Survey Error* presented by Dr. Paul Biemer





International

Success of the Educational Ambassador Program



Web-based Education Programs

- ❖ Can reach almost anyone in the world with a internet connection and a telephone
- ❖ Eliminates need for costly travel

13 of 42

- Treatment starts at the age of 45 days; measurements taken every 10 days, from day 50 on.
- The responses are distances (pixels) between well defined points on x-ray pictures of the skull of each rat:

WebEx Player - training test edited

File Controls Help

Sharing Window and Incomplete Data

webex



International

❖ Educational Testing Service (ETS) and ASA

ETS and the ASA **Committee on Membership Retention and Recruitment** have established a fee-waiver scholarship program for selected students in developing nations.

Selected students receive a voucher for GRE and/or TOEFL and a two-year ASA student membership.





International

❖ Reciprocal Membership

ASA has reached agreements with a number of statistical associations in developing nations to offer ASA membership to their members at a reduced rate.



International

❖ ***AMSTAT NEWS* Articles**

Since December 2004, each issue of *Amstat News* has contained an article highlighting a statistical association from other countries. These articles serve as a means to better inform our members of the activities taking place worldwide in the discipline by our sister societies.



International Chinese Statistical Association

泛華統計協會





Inter-American Statistical Institute

THE AMERICAN

AMST

United States
of America

Venezuela
Colombia

Brazil

Bolivia

Paraguay



ASA and International Outreach

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Inter-American Statistical Institute Service Oriented Toward Statistical Development in the American Region

The Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) was founded in 1949 with the purpose of promoting the development of statistics in the American region. The IASI is a non-governmental organization with institutional and individual members, is affiliated to the International Statistical Institute (ISI), and has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

In 1949 IASI started the publication of its journal *Estadística*. At the present time two numbers per year are edited, with papers in Spanish and English, the working languages of the Institute; papers are also accepted in Portuguese and French, the other two IASI official languages. A quarterly newsletter, with information on the activities of the Institute as well as on national and international programs and activities considered of interest for the statistical community, is also distributed in hard copies, by email, and via the Institute's web site (www.mecor.arias.org). Those interested in receiving the newsletter by email can join the mailing list by sending an email to the Assistant Technical Secretary of IASI, Roberto Maizot (maizot@iasi.org).

In the past decades, the IASI's programs have significantly contributed to the improvement of national statistical services through the improvement of national censuses for the demographic censuses of the years 1950, 1960, and 1970 rounds, and the activities of the well as by providing training of National Statistics, as well as by providing training and formation of personnel at diverse levels and in different specializations for universities, statistical agencies, and research institutions.

Now, the work of the Institute includes: (a) the previously mentioned publications; (b) a Program of Seminars on Applied Statistics started in 1987, including one in Peru in 2005 devoted to new technologies in the production of statistics, and one in Mexico in 2007 dedicated to seasonality in economic time series; (c) a Program of Meetings on Public Statistics started in 1998, which will include a seminar on "Organization of National Statistical Systems" in Uruguay in 2005, and possibly one on "Geographical Information Systems and Public

Statistics" in Mexico in 2006; (d) a program of special events offered to the professional sector; and (e) the IASI Award for Excellence, granted for the first time in the National Symposium on Probability and Statistics, organized by the Associação Brasileira de Estatística (ABE), and held in July



A session of the IX Seminar on Applied Statistics, "Statistics in Education and Education in Statistics," Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 2003.



Opening session of the Inter-American Meetings on Teaching of Statistics held in Argentina in 2002.

2004 in Cocumbu, Brazil.

At present, the Institute is developing a drive to increase its membership, particularly through special agreements with national statistical associations in the region to establish joint-membership programs. All those interested in contributing to the IASI work program and to the development of statistics in the American region are invited to join IASI. For more information, please contact: Prof. Evelio O. Fabbro, Technical Secretary of IASI, at fabbro@coppanama.net.

DECEMBER 2004 13



Sociedad de Estadística e Investigación Operativa

<http://www.seio.es>



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research

The Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research was created on February 12, 1962, with the name "Sociedad de Estadística e Investigación Operativa" (SEIO). At that time, there was a need to publicize the theory and practice of the operations research disciplines in Spain. On June 30, 1976, the field of activities of the society was enlarged to include statistics and computer sciences. The name became "Sociedad Española de Investigación Operativa, Estadística e Informática." However, due to the high-speed development of computer sciences, several new scientific societies appeared in Spain at that time. For this reason, it was decided on December 20, 1984, to concentrate the activities of the society on statistics and operations research, and the actual name "Sociedad de Estadística e Investigación Operativa" was definitively established.

SEIO is an autonomous organization with about 750 individual members. The purpose of SEIO is to develop, foster, and disseminate statistical and operations research knowledge, methodology, and good practice. In pursuing its mission, SEIO organizes ordinary meetings and workshops, edits books, scientific journals, and newsletters, encourages national and international scientific communication, promotes links between the academic world and private or public companies or institutions, and encourages and promotes the general advancement and dissemination of the science and methodology of statistics and operations research where it would benefit the broader community and advance the welfare of society.

SEIO is organized in two sections, statistics and operations research. It has an Executive Committee and Academic Committees associated with the sections. Since 1962, SEIO has had the following presidents: Fermín de la Sierra, Soto Ríos, Pilar Barrios, Marco A. López, Daniel Peña, Blas Moreno, Jesús T. Pastor, Rafael Infante, and Pedro Gil. The current president is Domingo Morales (d.morales@unh.es).

SEIO also has institutional members that are private or public institutions. Among them the Spanish Statistical Office, Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), has a permanent position in the Executive Committee of SEIO. SEIO participates as a member of the International Statistical Institute, the International Federation of Operational Research Societies, the Association of European Operational Research Societies, and the Spanish Committee of Mathematics.

SEIO has currently four Research Groups. They organize regular meetings, the majority of which are free:

- Dynamic Prediction**, coordinated by Mariano J. Valderama Bonnet (valderamaj@mat.ucm.es).
- Game Theory**, coordinated by Joaquín Sánchez Soriano (soriano@mat.ucm.es).
- Location Theory**, coordinated by Blas Pelegrín Pelegrín (pelegrin@cc.uma.es).
- Multicriteria Decision Theory**, coordinated by Emilio Carrizosa Priego (carrizosa@uma.es) and Gabriela Fernández Barberis (gbarberis@uma.es).

SEIO edits two scientific journals in English: *TEST* and *TOP*. *TEST* is a journal of statistics and probability, in which the emphasis is placed on papers containing original theoretical contributions of direct or potential value in applications. A volume of about 500 pages is published annually in two parts.

Photos from the 2004 SEIO Conference in Cadiz, Spain.

JANUARY 2005 33



ABE - Associação Brasileira de Estatística

AMSTATNEWS

The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association

February 2005 • Issue #332

Featuring
ASA District
Chapters

District One
Highlighted

Biostatistical
Salary Survey

The Brazilian Statistical Association

Founded in 1961, the Associação Brasileira de Estatística (ABE) promotes the development, dissemination, and application of statistics in Brazil. It grew out of the need to provide structure for statistical activities that were already taking place and, in particular, to provide a more permanent basis for organizing the SINAPE (Simpósio Nacional de Probabilidade e Estatística), the biennial meetings that started 10 years earlier.

Meetings

ABE sponsors several series of scientific and professional meetings in statistics. The principal one is SINAPE, the National Symposium on Probability and Statistics, which is held every two years, usually during the last week of July. SINAPE brings together academics, professionals, students, and all those interested in statistics and its applications. The last one took place in 2001 in Curitiba and had 600 participants.

Three other meeting series are regularly supported by ABE: the Schools of Time Series and Econometrics, the Schools of Regression Models, and the Brazilian Meetings on Bayesian Statistics. ABE also sponsors a series of regional meetings in statistics in different parts of Brazil, with at least two taking place every year.

ABE also publishes, jointly with IBGE (the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics), the *Revista Brasileira de Estatística*, which aims to promote statistics relevant for application in social sciences, in a format of easy access to a wide readership in the scientific community. The central theme of its papers is practical applications, which must have substantial statistical content, and presented, but new statistical developments are not essential. Material is published in Portuguese, with abstracts in English.

To disseminate the activities of the association and relevant news about statistics in Brazil and other parts of the world, and to keep in touch with the membership, ABE publishes a news bulletin three times a year, which is also available via the web site in pdf format. In addition, it maintains a web site (www.abe.org.br) and a quick means of communication with members and the outside world.

Another group of publications are the notes prepared for the short courses

Publications

Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics, formerly *REBRAPES*, is the official publication of ABE, issued twice a year. The journal aims to further the study of statistical techniques, promote the applications of probabilistic and statistical methods in broad fields, and provide an international forum for matters of general interest to statisticians. It is open to all application of probability and statistics. Research papers, review and survey articles, technical notes, book reviews, and case studies are welcome. One of the goals of the journal is to achieve equilibrium between theoretical and applied articles.

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offered as part of ABE's main meetings (SINAPE and the schools). Available at very low prices after the conferences, these notes have become a core set of statistical literature in Portuguese for subjects in which no alternatives are available from private sector publishing companies.

Finally, ABE develops the Fisher Project to promote publication of statistics textbooks in Portuguese, which can help the teaching of statistics in undergraduate and graduate levels.

Prizes and Awards

ABE gives prizes and awards in several categories. The ABE Prize, awarded every two years during SINAPE, goes to a Brazilian statistician who has made significant contributions to the development of research and teaching of statistics in Brazil. Also during SINAPE, ABE awards prizes for the best papers presented in the poster session, the best by undergraduate students presented during the conference. Last year, ABE offered for the first time the IAS Award for Excellence, in conjunction with the InterAmerican Statistical Institute. ■

REBRAPES 2003 19



Sociedade Portuguesa de Estatística



Fourth International Symposium on Statistics in Business and Industry (ISBIS4) April 13-16

Novotel Resort Palm Cove,
Tropical North Queensland, Australia
www.action-m.com/isbis4

On April 13, Jerry Friedman and Glenn Stone will present a one-day workshop (www.action-m.com/isbis4/4workshop.php) on Data Mining: Methods and Applications in Insurance and Finance.

From the April 14-16 the ISBIS4 is being held at an outstanding venue (www.action-m.com/isbis4/4workshop.php), in one of the world's top tourist destinations because of its proximity to the Great Barrier Reef and the wilderness region of the Daintree. The scientific program will feature many of the world's leading statistical researchers and practitioners in business, industry, and finance. It will include sessions on:

• in industrial stability and reliability
• design of experiments and case studies

• and finance
• modeling, market management, and

• topics such as
• computer statistics in the industry.

conference, visit isbis4.org and for more information see www.action-m.com/isbis4/4workshop.php. And don't forget to book your accommodation at www.action-m.com/isbis4/4workshop.php.

For more information, contact the conference organizers at isbis4@action-m.com.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Portuguese Statistical Society



Evora, Portugal, XII Annual Meeting, September 29-October 2, 2004.

The Portuguese Statistical Society (SPE), founded in 1980, is a non-profit scientific association celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The principal objectives of the association are to promote the development of statistics and its applications, stimulating the study of and research in statistics and probability.

- the exchange of ideas and activities in Portugal and abroad; and

- the spread of statistical knowledge and techniques in order to contribute to the increase of statistical literacy.

The society has approximately 750 individual members from universities, schools, businesses, public administration, and information agencies, as well as several institutional members representing these various sectors of society.

To unify and serve all who work in the field of statistics, in both academic and business sectors, the SPE promotes the organization of the following activities:

- The annual SPE Congress (since 1993), XII Annual Meeting in Evora/Algarve <http://pe2005.spestatistica.pt>.
- Scientific seminars and short duration courses in several areas.
- Educational sessions and continuing education courses for teachers.
- The SPE Award (an annual scientific award for young researchers).
- The Tiago de Oliveira Award (an award for senior researchers).
- The Junior Statistician Award (an award for students from schools).

The society is also involved in important editorial activities with regular publications including proceedings from all SPE congresses, information newsletters, and scientific works in specific statistical fields. SPE is a member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and the International Association for Statistical Education (IASI) and has close relationships with similar national and international associations. ■



April 2005 • Issue #234

AMSTATNEWS

The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association



Percentages

30
25
20
15
10
5
0

Years or Less W
to ASA Pop.

Recent

Statistical Society of Australia

SSAI



Statistical Society of Australia Inc.



View near Cairns

History

Australia has a long history of excellence in statistics with many members being recognised internationally for their contributions to the discipline.

History

The Statistical Society of Australia, Inc. (SSAI) was formally established in 1962 as a national organization for Australian statisticians that acts as an umbrella organization for six state branches and members scattered around the world. Currently, membership stands at about 800.

The origins of the society date back to 1947 when the Statistical Society of New South Wales was formed. There was very little interest in forming a national body at that time because very few statisticians worked outside of Sydney and Melbourne. Formation of the Canberra Statistical Society in 1961 by a group led by F.A.P. Moran was the catalyst for the formation of the national body. Other branches to join were Western Australia in 1964, Victoria in 1965, South Australia in 1967, and Queensland in 1981. Each branch is a separate legal entity and has at least two members on the SSAI Central Council.

Main Activities

SSAI concentrates primarily on monthly branch meetings that usually feature a technical talk or discussion, the publication of a journal and newsletter, the maintenance of a society web site, the organization of an accreditation scheme for members and a biennial conference, and workshops and meetings of interest to members. Special interest sections are encouraged to develop activities separately or as part of the biennial conferences.

Journal

SSAI jointly publishes the *Australia & New Zealand Journal of Statistics* (ANZJS) with the New Zealand Statistical Society. ANZJS has been published in its current form since 1998 when *The Australian Journal of Statistics*, first published in 1959 by the New South Wales Branch, and *The New Zealand Statistician*, published by the New Zealand Statistical Association, merged. Both societies share the editorial responsibilities to publish quarterly in hardcopy and electronic (PDF) format. In 2006, it is hoped a more interactive electronic form of ANZJS will be available and that members can choose to have electronic-only access if they wish. The hardcopy form will continue to be available for the foreseeable future. ANZJS is published by Blackwell. For more information, visit www.blackwellpublishing.com/.

Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter is published as a means of communicating a much broader range of events and activities and to promote discussion of SSAI or areas of professional interest. In 2004, a few pages of color were introduced into the newsletter so photographs and other material can have more impact. This has proven a popular enhancement. The current issue includes material about recent branch activities, information for members, a discussion about the method of election of executive members to SSAI, an article about the award of the Pitman medal for 2004 to Professor Adrian Baddeley, an article about the 100th anniversary of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and material about ISI 2005—to be held in Sydney in April.

Conferences

With members scattered over every state in Australia, plus many new residents in other countries, the SSAI organizes a five-day conference in July every

APRIL 2005 17



Svenska Statistikersamfundet Belgian Statistical Society

AMSTATNEWS

The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association

The Argentinean Statistical Society (SAE)

The SAE is a technical and scientific society that aims to promote the development of statistics in Argentina. The organization was created on July 15, 1952, at the first Statistical Colloquium organized by Professor Fausto J. Torricelli at the National University of Cuyo. The first president was Professor Carlos E. Domínguez, scientist and educator of renowned national and international activity. At that time, he was the director of the first statistics program in Latin America. A statistics degree has been available since 1964 at the then National University of La Plata, what is now National University of Buenos Aires.

The SAE is formed of representatives from various regions of the country, a characteristic that allows it to meet all the needs of its members. Among the SAE's original aims that are still current, it is proud to highlight the following:

- Promote the development of statistics in Argentina.
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Asamblea de la SAE en la Universidad de Cuyo, Córdoba, 2004.

Among the SAE's organized activities are the XXXIII Colloquium in October 2007 at the Córdoba National University, Argentina, and the XXXIV Colloquium in October 2008 at the Universidad de Cuyo, Córdoba, Argentina.

In 1967, at the XV Colloquium, the SAE, together with the International Institute of Statistics (IIS), organized a seminar on the development of statistics in Latin America. This event was held in the city of La Plata, Argentina, and was attended by representatives from various countries in Latin America. The seminar was a success and led to the creation of the SAE.

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Belgium: Small but Significant

Belgium, a small but significant country, has been growing more and more under the (European) Statistical Office (Eurostat). The country is known for its statistical work, and its members are active in the field of statistics.

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The Swedish Society of Statisticians

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“Many Belgian statisticians have studied in the United States, benefited from extended stays, and/or hold strong professional and academic links with the United States.”



Portrait of a Belgian statistician.

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Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Estadística –SEE

SUOMEN
TILASTOSEURA



June 2005 • Issue #336
AMSTATNEWS
The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association





Société statistique du Canada/Statistical Society of Canada





Irish Statistical Association



One tidbit most every statistician knows about Ireland and statistics is that W.S. Gossett worked at the Guinness Brewery in Dublin at the time he wrote his paper on the t-distribution. Perhaps less well-known is that F.Y. Edgeworth was from Ireland as well, born in Edgeworthstown, County Longford, in 1845. With the extensive emigration from Ireland to all parts of the world, many statistics have been brought to Ireland. And today, with the rapid growth of the economy, Ireland has become an active participant in the world of statistics and more and more opportunities for statisticians.

The Irish Statistical Association (ISA) was formed in 1997 through the merger and enthusiasm of its youth. It arose from a long and successful series of meetings (Conference on Applied Statistics, the first one being in 1981). The ISA spans both the Republic of Ireland and the North (Northern Ireland), where there are links to the local statistics community (RSS). It aims to bring together statisticians from all over Ireland, and the current membership of mainly statisticians has topped 100. There are also statisticians in government and industry in addition to a few



Left: Connemara, right: Dublin

Other Activities

Another mission of the ISA is to attract international meetings to Ireland and collaborate in their organization. This has resulted in a particularly busy planned schedule for 2006. Events include the International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM) in Galway, July 3-7; the Royal Statistical Society conference (RSS 2006) in Belfast, September 11-15; the Workshop on Correlated Data Modelling in Limerick in late September; and CASI in May. After a short breather in 2007, Dublin will host IBC 2008 (International Biometric Conference) from July 15-18, organized by the British region of the IBS; this will probably be the largest statistics meeting ever held in Ireland.

The ISA is delighted to be involved in the organization of these meetings and looks forward to welcoming the international statistical community to Ireland.

Web Site

Details of all future and past meetings can be found at www.istat.ie.

How To Join

The simplest way to join is to come to a CASI meeting—membership is included in the registration fee. For those who cannot make it to Ireland in May (generally a lovely time to visit), but would like to be kept informed of our activities, membership forms are available at www.istat.ie. You also may contact Honorary Secretary Gabrielle Kelly by emailing Gabrielle.Kelly@tcd.ie.



October 2005 • Volume 34

AMSTATNEWS

The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Korean Statistical Society KSS Boasts 800 Members, Three Journals, Eight Subsidiaries

The Korean Statistical Society was established in 1971 as a national organization with the purpose of furthering the research and development of statistics and related topics. The society's first conference was held in 1972, and the first edition of the Journal of the Korean Statistical Society was published the following year. Currently, the Korean Statistical Society has approximately 800 members, both individual and organizational.

Activities

The Korean Statistical Society holds two main conferences annually, in the spring and fall. The conferences feature and discuss various papers and research, a few of which are then selected to be published in Proceedings.

The society also publishes the *Journal of the Korean Statistical Society* (JRSS), the *Korean Journal of Applied Statistics*, and *Korean Communication in Statistics*. The *Study of Statistics*, first published in 1973, changed its name to JRSS in 1996. It is published quarterly. The *Study of Applied Statistics*, founded in 1987, and *Korean Communication in Statistics*, founded in 1994, are both published three times per year. In addition, a bimonthly newsletter is published in order to enhance communication among members of the society as well as other statisticians. The members of the Korean Statistical Society can access information regarding these publications early through the official web site, <http://www.kss.or.kr>.

Eight subsidiary societies exist under the umbrella organization of the Korean Statistical Society. These include the Korean Society for Official Statistics, the Korean Society for Engineering Statistics, the Korean Society for Bayesian Statistics, the Korean Society for Classification, the Korean Society for Biostatistics, the Korean Society for Statistical Survey, the Korean Society for Statistical Computing, and the Korean Society for Statistical Education and Consulting. These also exist six regional branches, each of which holds its own workshops and presentations. These societies and branches contribute greatly to the Korean Statistical Society through their individual accomplishments and joint projects with other organizations.

Foreign Dialogue

Since 1982, the Korean Statistical Society has hosted the Korean-Japanese Joint Conference every two years, and has featured special presentations by various foreign distinguished statisticians. Also, the Korean Statistical Society has had each subsidiary society under the Korean Statistical Society has had active exchanges with foreign statisticians. In 2001, the Korean Statistical Society was delighted to hold the 54th International Statistical Conference in Seoul, which encouraged further exchange of ideas among statisticians around the world. For more information about KSS and its membership, email off@kss.or.kr or write to The Korean Statistical Society, Room 308, Science and Technology Bldg., 135-703, Seoul, Korea. ■

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AMSTATNEWS

November 2005 • Issue #341

Staff Spotlight

The New Zealand Statistical Association

District 5 Chapter Highlighted

The New Zealand Statistical Association Grows out of Need, Change

Murray Jorgensen, NZSA President

In response to ASA President Fritz Scheuren's invitation, I gladly provide a few words about the New Zealand Statistical Association. To keep the tone light, I'm making this a personal and subjective reflection, so please don't treat my words as historically authoritative. Links to more detailed information are provided below.

The NZSA has a long history. In 1948, upon the recommendation of the Royal Commission of Enquiry into the State of the Country, the New Zealand Statistical Association was established. It was the first of its kind in New Zealand, and its formation was a result of the need for a central body to coordinate statistical activities. The NZSA was very much a product of its time, and its early years were marked by a period of growth and change. The NZSA was very much a product of its time, and its early years were marked by a period of growth and change. The NZSA was very much a product of its time, and its early years were marked by a period of growth and change.



Some delegates at the NZ Institute for Mathematics and its Applications, Hidden Markov Models Workshop, a satellite meeting to the NZSA Conference, held at Wanaka, Central Otago, listen to Rippon Vineyard's Assistant Winemaker talk on production methods at the winery (June 2005).

these are the Survey Appraisals and Public Questions Committee (SAPQC) and the Education Committee. The SAPQC—which critiques surveys, polls, and statistical statements made in the public arena—aims to raise the standard of practice and the level of public understanding of statistics. The Education Committee has a good liaison with the authorities revising the New Zealand school curriculum and contributes much input on the way statistics is presented in public schools. New Zealand has been somewhat of a pioneer in the early introduction of statistics into the high school curriculum to a large degree as the result of continual work by members of the NZSA.

Local groups of the association flourish from time to time in various cities, particularly Wellington and Christchurch. Where they do not exist, it is usually because an alternative in the form of regular university-based seminars provides another means of bringing together local statisticians.

In preparing this note, I have drawn on the book *A History of Statistics in New Zealand* by the late H. S. (Stan) Roberts, published by the NZSA in 2000. In it are the names of many of the NZSA's key people. Unfortunately, it is out of print, but we are investigating the possibility of having an electronic version available on the NZSA's web site. ■

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INTERNATIONAL INDIAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION (IISA)





Asociación Mexicana de Estadística



Ethiopian Statistical Association (ESA)





Società Italiana di Statistica







The Uganda Statistical Society



Uganda Statistical Society Is Revived

James Mtsho, President of USS

The Uganda Statistical Society was founded in 1980 as a professional body to bring together all statisticians in Uganda. The society was dynamic until the mid-1980s, when inactivity ensued and sent upon it for nearly two decades.

On January 15, 2005, the society was revived by a group of about 70 members with the following objectives: promote the collection, compilation, tabulation, analysis, and publication of statistics in public and private agencies in Uganda; stimulate and promote research in statistics, its teaching, and its applications in planning and decisionmaking in the public and private



James Mtsho, President of USS

the African context. The journal will be produced twice a year in the future. The society also cohosted Africa Statistics Week in Kampala to educate the public about the uses of statistics.

Since the year started, six forums have been held to allow distinguished national and international statisticians to talk to society members and the general public about topical issues, namely the global economy, statistics for policymaking, Uganda popula-

tion censuses, statistics advocacy, the role of statistics in promoting East-African trade, and exploiting census microdata for reality-based planning and policymaking. Students of statistics are becoming excellent professional statisticians through essay competitions that award prizes to the best writers on topical statistics issues.

The society constitution also has been revamped to meet the current needs of the society, and a chat room was created at uss-ug.org to link the society to the international community, allow discussion of current issues, and provide information efficiently.

The society has several challenges ahead that mostly revolve around inadequate funding. This is because the society's membership cannot afford to pay large dues given its poor environment and low salaries. For more information, visit www.uss.org or contact the secretary at ussinfo@uss.org or (254) 77-864335. ■

Gerry Hahn Wins Box Medal

At its annual conference in Winslow, Poland, this September (see www.enbs.org), the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics will present the George Box Medal, the Best Manager Award, and the Young Statistician Award.

The recipient of this year's George Box Medal for outstanding contributions to industrial statistics is Gerry Hahn. Hahn has been responsible for the success of Six Sigma within General Electric and, through his articles and books, worldwide. By his contributions to statistics and industrial statistics, he forms a bridge between academia, industry, and business, which also is what ENBS aims to do.

Recipient of this year's Best Manager Award, which recognizes managers who make a significant contribution to the success of their companies by advancing the spread and practice of statistics, is Gerhard Rappelt. He has been engaged in the semiconductor company *autronicmicrosystems* since 1997, working in analog circuit simulation, statistical device modeling, and design for manufacturability.

Finally, Peter Goos will receive the 2006 Young Statistician Award for introducing innovative statistical methods and promoting the use of statistics in daily practice. Goos is a professor of applied economics at Universiteit Antwerpen. Most of his work involves the design and analysis of industrial experiments and discrete choice experiments. ■



Sociedad Chilena de Estadística

AMSTATNEWS

The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association

June 2006 • Issue #348

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SOCHE One of First Statistical Societies in Latin America

SOCHE is a nonprofit organization whose objective is to promote the development of statistics in Chile within academia, industry, and government. It is open to anyone interested in statistics, though most of its members are academics. Formed in 1977, the association was one of the first statistical societies in Latin America, even though statistics as a field was relatively underdeveloped. (At that time, there were just three Chilean statisticians with a PhD.) Two factors were influential in the creation of the society. The first was the existence of 171 Chilean graduates from the master's program at the Interamerican Statistical Training Center (CENES). This program, directed by Emilio Illanes, was influential in the development of local undergraduate and master's programs in statistics. The second factor was the visit of a delegation of the American Statistical Association in 1976 that included Fred Leone, Lester Franchel, James

The delegation could not and Carlos Prados became the SOCHE. He

society has been early national meeting, held in was the thirp of the national tion of under- the Argentinean time of their id jointly every de sister societ- This gave birth ng of Statistical of which took The third and Chile in 1993 (specio). The 10-13, 2006, at Argentina.

of the ASA, SOCHE decided to start sections that would help attract people from other fields.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SOCHE One of First Statistical Societies in Latin America

The *Biostatistics* Section is affiliated with the *Biometrics* Society and has organized its own regular meetings; the sixth meeting took place at Universidad de La Frontera in January 2006. The *Bayesian* Section also has conducted several meetings, some of them with significant international participation. Other Sections include Statistical Education, Industrial Statistics, and Official Statistics, which have been less active so far. SOCHE also has sponsored other scientific meetings and organized statistics sessions within mathematics meetings.

The Journal

An important landmark was the creation of the *Journal of the Chilean Statistical Society* (*Revista de la Sociedad Chilena de Estadística*) in 1984, which was one of the first of its kind in Latin America. The journal has an international editorial board; its articles are peer reviewed, and each issue is indexed in the *Current Index in Statistics*. The present editor is Pilar Iglesias, pi@mat.puc.cl, and there is a study under way to transform the journal into an electronic format.

Undergraduate Programs

As is common elsewhere, many statisticians are trained within mathematics programs. A distinctive aspect of Chilean statistics is the existence of various undergraduate programs in the discipline, something that is particularly relevant as students in Chile must choose their career at the time they enter university. The first statistics program appeared in the mid-60s under the name of statistical technician. Since then, similar degrees have been offered, but eventually discontinued.

Professional undergraduate statistics programs (4- to 5-year programs) started in the 70s at Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and Universidad Austral. In the 80s, Universidad de Valparaíso started a program. Now, programs are offered at only Universidad Católica de Valparaíso and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

A five-year program that adds training in engineering and administration

was created at Universidad de Santiago in 1994 called statistical engineering. This idea was followed by Universidad de Valparaíso (1996), Universidad de Playa Ancha (1997), Universidad del Bío-Bío (2001), and Universidad de Concepción (2004). About 70 undergraduate statisticians are produced each year, and about 2,200 have been produced since the first program began.

Graduate Programs

There are a few master's programs in statistics, most with a small number of students. The first was offered by Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in 1972, followed by the Universidad de Concepción in 1975. Universidad de Antofagasta also offered a program from 1977 to 1987 jointly with CENES. The largest programs are the master's in biostatistics, offered by Universidad de Chile since 1983, and the master's in statistics at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, which started in 1987. Two recent master's programs began at Universidad de Valparaíso (2001) and Universidad de Antofagasta (2004) (industrial statistics).

The only doctoral program in statistics in Chile was created in 1998 at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and it is one of the first of its kind in Latin America. At present, there are six graduates from this program. There is a large, unsatisfied demand for doctoral graduates to occupy academic positions, a situation that is expected to remain unchanged for some time.

Statistics in Schools

Statistics was introduced into the high schools in 1999. Although SOCHE had some influence in the curriculum, its present form is rather unsatisfactory. The main problem is that teachers have minimal training in statistics and, in fact, avoid teaching the subject, despite it being a mandatory part of the curriculum. Many statisticians have made efforts to help solve this problem, and SOCHE has been supportive of these initiatives. There is much room here for international cooperation.

For more information about SOCHE, visit www.soche.cl.

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Statistical Society of Slovenia





Royal Statistical Society

Royal Statistical Society

A Society Shaped by Its Members

Ever since the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) was founded in 1834, its activities have been shaped by its members in an effort to advance the understanding and use of statistics. This is as true of today's membership as it was for past fellows, such as Florence Nightingale, William Guy, Egon Pearson, and Ronald Fisher.

As well as providing a forum for discussion and debate of statistical ideas, theories, and applications, the society actively encourages the good use of statistics in all situations.

A Global Membership

Although founded in London, as much as a quarter of today's membership is drawn from more than 50 countries outside the UK. Nearly a quarter hold the society's professional qualifications of Chartered Statistician (CStat) or Graduate Statistician (GradStat). In addition, the RSS is an umbrella organization for thousands of users represented by user groups belonging to its Statistics User Forum.

Professional Development

Great importance is placed on professional accreditation and development. The Chartered Statistician designation formally recognizes an individual's statistical qualifications and professional training and experience. Those still gaining such experience and expertise can apply to become a GradStat. Many go on to achieve CStat status.

In addition, the society works hard to encourage all statisticians, whether professionally qualified, to engage in continuing professional development (CPD). Chartered Statisticians maintain their professional qualification through CPD and can gain the Maintained Professional Certificate to validate this.

The Next Generation

The society is committed to sustaining and developing the discipline through promoting careers in statistics with material that includes a DVD and a dedicated section of a web site. The RSS accredits 100 university courses worldwide and runs a suite of professional examinations for those studying statistics while at work. Examinations have been held in 40 countries.

An Active Scientific Program

ASA members stopping over on trips outside the United States will be welcomed to join in the RSS's lively program of more than 150 meetings, lectures, seminars, and courses every year. More than 20 local groups hold meetings around the UK, and two groups are also well-established overseas—in Belgium and Tanzania. Subjects range from cutting-edge research to social policy.

With many such trips likely to go through London, the society's 50 meetings a year held in its London headquarters will be a particular attraction. Further information about the meetings program is available at www.rss.org.uk/events.

The highlight of each year is the RSS's five-day international conference attended by statisticians from around the globe. In 2006, more than 100 papers will be presented and discussed in addition to a poster display and special sessions on issues from statistics and the law to environmental statistics.

Peer-Reviewed Research

The society publishes three internationally renowned peer-review journals, covering the whole range of statistical areas and levels of complexity. Datasets and computer code associated with some of the papers are also available via the internet.

Series A (Statistics in Society) demonstrates how statistical thinking, design, and analyses play a vital role in all walks of life, emphasizing quantitative approaches to real problems for non-specialists and specialists alike. It often considers topical or contentious statistical issues, with papers reviewing current statistical concerns and others contributing to our understanding of important substantive questions. Historical, professional, and biographical contributions also are published, as are discussions of

of data collection and ethical (Statistical Methodology) is at the heart of methodological development. The journal's emphasis is on practice and disseminating that is likely to have a substantial impact on the way data are collected and used. Within this remit, the journal covers work in applied probability, methods, and the foundations of models, methods of study, and theory—almost invariably with examples.

Series B bridges the gap between technical solutions to problems and is motivated by statistical data of a methodological development. It covers a range of topics (e.g., applications in industry, medicine, and a deep understanding

of statistical methodology is not necessary to appreciate the content of the journal's emphasis on statistical analyses in practice.

Promoting the Interests of the Discipline

The RSS encourages the good use of data and statistical knowledge at all levels, which has led to the expansion of its existing activities.

At the RSS magazine, *Significance*, provides a mix of theories and by dealing with statistics and the emphasis is largely on a wider audience—those working in industry, economics, and those who link with other organizations. Concern about the use and understanding of the legal system has led to (ongoing) work with the legal profession and the judiciary to develop understanding of statistics.

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Level C), *Significance*, a journal series (one of A, C, and S) as well as discounts on all RSS meetings, conferences, and courses. Further details on how to get a free copy of *Significance* can be found at www.rss.org.uk/doi.





South African Statistical Association

South-African Societies Build Statistical Capacity

The 6th International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS6) was held in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2002. It was used to start an assistance program for local mathematics school teachers, if any, statistics, but students were statistically illiterate. Competition was initiated in South Africa (Stats SA) and the South African Statistical Association (SASA). This resulted in a selection of teachers to go to the conference and pay for their travel. The aim of the conference was to select a group of South African teachers to attend the conference and present post-hundred-sixty-nine statistics teachers took the day telling how they could benefit if they

question, multiple-choice questions involving tables, histograms, and general 'statistical' state-

an Grain of the test



A number of teachers attend ICOTS7.

ments, such as the meaning of "a 30% chance of rain." It did not require any statistical knowledge. Teachers were told that tables, etc., would be based on Stats SA publications, which could be obtained from the Stats SA web site or provincial Stats SA offices. Teachers taking the test were given a Stats SA information pack and a copy of the SASA Careers in Statistics brochure and put on the contact list for training courses to be run by provincial teams comprising teachers; maths subject advisors; and members of Stats SA, SASA, and AMESA.

Concerns Raised

A question relating to reading a bar chart showing unemployment rates in the nine provinces and the overall rate for South Africa had a disappointingly low percentage of correct answers. The question was "How many provinces had unemployment rates of at least 33% in the 1996 census?" Only 17.5% selected the correct answer, 37.2% not reading the bar chart correctly with respect to the question (i.e., including South Africa as one of the provinces). And 38.4% apparently did not know what "at least" meant.

Another question related to reading a table and deciding whether statements

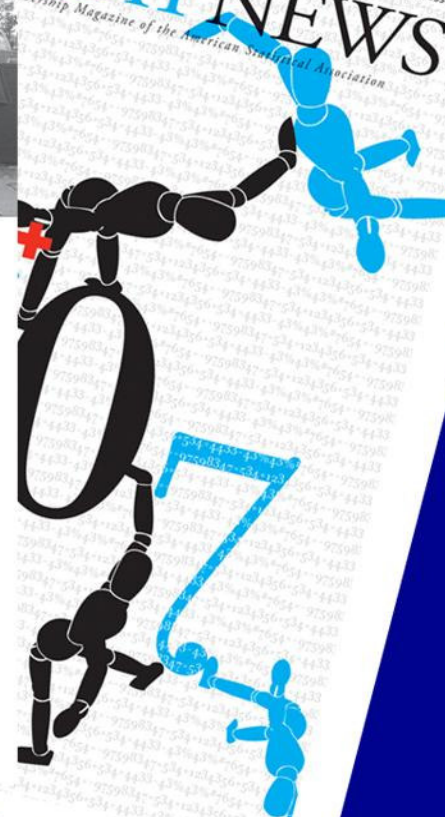
such as "6.7% of white citizens living in Mpumalanga are male" are true returned only 22.1% correct answers, with 13.2% of the test-takers not attempting the question. The problem appears to be a lack of understanding about what the numbers are a percentage (i.e., of total males and total females within each province). Worse, many teachers did not check the options against common sense; it is highly unlikely that 93.3% of whites in Mpumalanga would be female and only 6.7% male. This could well be evidence of rote application of techniques.

It is not clear why the teachers performed so poorly. It may be due to their lack of recent experience taking writing exams. Another possible problem may be that they are teaching and re-teaching the same material, and are doing this by rote. All of these comments are unsupported suppositions that require further investigation. It also should be noted that this was a self-selected group of teachers, and there is no guarantee it is representative of all grade 10-12 maths teachers, although every effort was made to ensure all in this category were aware of the competition.

The launch of the Maths4Stats delegation was brilliant. We met with Trevor

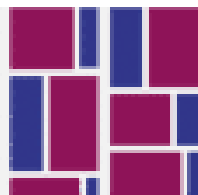
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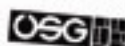
The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association

Pharmaceutical Industry
Offers Opportunities for
Master's-Level Statisticians



Board of Directors Meeting Highlights,
February 2007

Statistical Society Offers Statistics Forum to Austrians



In order to promote applications of statistical methods in Austria's commerce and industry, as well as in other scientific fields, the *Statistische Abteilung* and statistics journal, established in 1949, the "Statistische Abteilung" in the Austrian Statistical Society (OSG), which was constituted formally in 1951. From the beginning, the society showed strong interest in promoting statistics in Austria and developing computing information necessary for applied statistics. Accordingly, the two main activities in the first years were the creation of a graduate course in statistics at the University of Vienna—mainly for students of mathematics and economics—and the formation of the first Austrian research center for statistics and computer science. The close cooperation between statistics and computer science was characteristic for the society in its early days. However, it is not surprising that Austrian statisticians played an active role in the inception of the *OSG* journal, this tradition is still alive, and members of the society play a key role in the *R* community. After that first period, the society was more oriented toward official statistics. A turning point was in the beginning of the 90s, when the society got a new internal structure that was more balanced between the different branches of statistics.

Today, the society has about 600 members, four of them honorary, offering a forum for everyone in Austria interested in statistics and listing producers of statistical data in public administration, research institutions and users of statistics. Although membership is open to everyone, almost all members reside in Austria.

Traditionally, there has been close relations with the German Statistical Society. In order to broaden international contacts, the statistical societies in Europe. In 2005, the OSG—together with the societies of Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia—became a founding member of Central European Statistical Societies. Cooperation with the Society of the Indian State is just beginning.

Scientific activities are organized into 15 working groups covering a broad spectrum of statistics, including methodology, applications of statistics, and official statistics. Usually, these working groups organize biennially income, discussion groups, or one-day workshops. The main scientific event is the annual "Statistiktag," by Statistics Austria. The conference is mainly a national conference, with German as the official language and only a few keynote lectures from distinguished statisticians from abroad. In recent years, one can see a tendency toward a more international orientation by using English as the second conference language.



Winners of the OSG competition

For communication with its members, the OSG publishes a newsletter with two issues per year. In 2006, a new homepage was launched. One can now find information about all activities of the society at www.osg.at. At the moment, only a German version is available, but an English translation is planned for 2007.

The official publication of the society is the *Austrian Journal of Statistics*, which publishes papers in English and German. All papers are refereed. Corresponding to the goals of the society, the general objective of the journal is to promote and extend the use of statistical methods in all kinds of theoretical and applied disciplines. Special emphasis is on methods and results in official and governmental statistics. There are usually four issues per year, with papers grouped into three sections: Theory and Methods, Applications and Case Studies, and Official Statistics. The Theory and Methods section contains articles that make original contributions to the foundations, theoretical developments, and methodological methods. In the Applications and Case Studies section, one can find original articles that show either innovative statistical analysis or substantially contribute to a scientific field. The Official Statistics section publishes articles dealing with conceptual methods and computational issues in this area. All issues from 1996 to today are available at www.osg.at.

In the last 15 years, the society also has made a number of efforts to popularize statistics in Austria and to engage young statisticians in the society. A special working group was formed devoted to the public promotion of statistics. The main activity of this group is the development of statistical teaching material for primary and secondary schools and statistics courses for professional training of teachers. In order to be more attractive to young statisticians, an independent platform within the society—Forum of Young Statisticians—was established in 2006. This forum may be considered with an alumni organization, and is rather successful in giving young statisticians a home inside the society. Incentives for young statisticians are the annual awards for best diploma theses and best PhD theses. There are two main categories: best thesis in mathematical statistics and best thesis in applied statistics.

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