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JOAN GARFIELD REPORTS:

IASE Elections

The ISI office presents the results of the recent IASE elections. The new Executive Committee will consist of:

President: Brian Phillips (Australia)
President Elect: Carmen Batanero (Spain)
Vice Presidents: Dani Ben-Zvi (Israel)
Joan Garfield (USA)
Lionel Pereira Mendoza (Singapore)
Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium)

IASE Sessions at ISI 99, Helsinki, Finland

IASE has organised several sessions to be held at the ISI meeting this August in Helsinki, Finland. These sessions include:

Invited meeting n. 58: **Statistical education and significance tests controversy**

Organiser/Chair: Carmen Batanero (Spain)

Papers:

1. Teaching hypothesis testing. Can it still be useful? (from Arbuthnot to Neyman-Pearson). Henrik Dahl (Norway)
2. Some empirical evidence on learning difficulties about testing hypotheses. Angustias Vallecillos (Spain)
3. Beyond the significance test controversy: Prime time for Bayes? Bruno Lecoutre (France)

Discussants: Paul. K. Ito, Professor Emeritus (Japan), and Michael Capobianco (USA)

Invited meeting n.59: **Teaching and learning multivariate data-analysis**

Organiser/Chair: Helena Bacelar Nicolau (Portugal)

Papers:

1. Introduction à la classification en sciences humaines. Georges Le Calvé (France)

2. Discussion, debate, and disagreement: Teaching multiple regression to business students. Peter G. Bryant (USA)
3. Teaching multivariate data analysis in the fields of biology and ecology. Hans-Peter Baeumer (Germany)
4. Some remarks on teaching the correlation coefficient. Kameo Matusita (Japan)

Discussants: Gilbert Saporta (France), and F. Costa Nicolau (Portugal)

Invited paper meeting n. 60: **Statistical education using flexible learning approaches**

Organiser/Chair: Agostino di Ciaccio (Italy)

Papers:

1. Why do students find statistics so difficult? James B. Ramsey (USA)
2. Teaching statistics with internet: a survey of available resources and the StatNet project. Gilbert Saporta (France)
3. TILE: A Toolkit for an Interactive Learning Environment. Deborah Nolan and Duncan Temple Lang (USA)

Discussants: Gianfranco Galmacci (Italy), and Juha Puranen (Finland)

Invited paper meeting n. 61: **Statistical education for life**

Organiser/Chair: Brian Phillips (Australia)

Papers:

1. Justice by the numbers: Educating judicial decision-makers. Mary Gray (USA)
2. Official statistics and the outside world. Vincenzo Lo Moro (Italy)
3. Helping the public understand risk. Dr. Amanda Burls (UK)

Discussants: John Pidgeon (Australia), and Helena Bacelar-Nicolau (Portugal)

Invited paper meeting n. 62: **Issues involved in the assessment and evaluation of student learning**

Organiser: Joan Garfield (USA); Chair: Joe Wisenbaker (USA)

Papers:

1. How to assess large groups with a minimal amount of resources but preserving quality. Susan Starkings (UK)
2. A model of classroom assessment in action: Using assessment to improve student learning and statistical reasoning. Beth Chance (USA)
3. Assessment in statistics using the personal computer. Giuseppe Cicchitelli (Italy)

Discussants: Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium), and Dani Ben-Zvi (Israel)

**Invited paper meeting n. 63:
Visualisation as an educational tool**

Organiser/Chair: Larry Weldon (Canada)

Papers:

1. Graphical excellence – The importance of sound principles and practices for effective communication. Thomas E. Bradstreet (USA)
2. Emphasising visualisation and activities in teaching introductory statistics by interactive multimedia. Hans-Joachim Mittag (Germany)
3. Visualisation for teaching all steps of data-based scientific research. Clovis Perez (Brazil)

Discussant: Andrej Blejec (Slovenia)

**Invited paper session n. 42:
Statistical training of people working in and with
official statistics**

Session co-organised by IAOS and IASE

Organisers/Chairs: Carol Joyce Blumberg (USA), and René H. M. Smulders (The Netherlands)

Papers:

1. The dissemination of statistical literacy among citizens and public administration directors. Luigi Biggeri, Università di Firenze, Firenze, Italy and Alberto Zuliani, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, Roma, Italy
2. New and emerging demands for statistical training in response to user needs in the 21st century. Ms. Linda Hewitt (West Indies)

Discussants: Jayanta K. Ghosh, (India), Mario Palma Rojo (Mexico), and Paul Cheung, (Singapore)

**Experiences and Perspectives on Teaching
Statistics. Challenges for the XXI Century
Florianópolis, Brazil, 20–22 September, 1999**

A Conference organised by PRESTA with IASE co-operation

The five-year interuniversity co-operation PRESTA Programme (*Programme de Recherche et d'Enseignement en Statistique Appliquée*) was set up in 1994 by the *Laboratoire de Méthodologie du Traitement des Données* of the *Université Libre* of Brussels, Belgium in co-operation with other European Universities, and with the support of the European Union. PRESTA is now organising a Conference on the Teaching of Statistics with the help of IASE, which will be held at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC), Florianópolis, Brazil in September, 1999. The International Programme Committee is formed by:

- Eduardo Crivisqui, PRESTA Programme, Université Libre of Brussels, Belgium, Chair;
- M. Gabriella Ottaviani, IASE, Università "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy;
- Carmen Batanero, IASE, Universidad de Granada, Spain;
- Brian Phillips, IASE, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia;
- Lucio J. Botelho, Vice President of the Universidade Federal Sao Carlos, Brazil;
- Pedro Ferreira Filho, Universidade Federal Sao Carlos, Brazil;
- Pedro A. Barbetta, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil.

More information can be obtained from:



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Information on the PRESTA Programme:

website

<http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/presta>

Conference information

website

<http://www.inf.ufsc.br/cee>

**Training Researchers in the Use of
Statistics: IASE Round Table Conference**

**The Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Tokyo,
Japan, August 7–11, 2000**

**Scientific
Committee:**

Carmen Batanero, University of Granada, Spain, Chair

Theodore Chadjiapadelis, Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki, Greece

Joan B Garfield, University of Minnesota, USA

Yuki Miura, Surugadai University, Japan

David Ospina, Universidad Nacional, Colombia

Brian Phillips, Swinburne University of Technology,
Australia

**Local
Organising
Committee:**

Yuki Miura, Surugadai University, Chair

Kensei Araya, Fukushima University

Masakatsu Murakami, The Institute of Statistical
Mathematics, Secretary

Toshiro Shimada, Professor Emeritus, Meiji University

Since 1968, a number of Round Table Conferences have been organised on topics in statistics education. These round table conferences were initially organised by the Education Committee of the International Statistical Institute and, since 1988, by IASE (the International Association for Statistical Education). It has been usual for these conferences to be held as satellite meetings to each meeting of ICME (International Congress on Mathematics Education), which is held every four years.

The year 2000 will be the year of the IASE Round Table in Japan on the topic: Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics. This meeting will be held at the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, which is located in the central area of Tokyo, after ICME 9 which will be held in Japan. The goal of the Round Table Conferences is to bring together a small number of experts, representing as many different countries as possible, to provide opportunities for developing better mutual understanding of common problems, and for making recommendations concerning the topic area under discussion. A main outcome is the publication of a book containing a set of refereed conference papers and summaries of discussions, which presents a global overview of the conference subject.

The following are possible topics and issues to be discussed at the IASE 2000 Round Table Conference:

1. Statistical competencies that researchers in different disciplines should acquire in their postgraduate training;
2. Needs and problems in the statistical training of researchers in specific fields;
3. Main learning problems, misconceptions and errors concerning advanced statistical concepts and procedures;
4. Design/evaluation of courses for training researchers in particular statistical topics;
5. Effects of technology on the statistical training of researchers;
6. Assessing/ identifying frequent errors in the use of statistics by researchers;
7. Researchers' attitudes towards statistics and its effect on the role of data analysis in experimental research;
8. Consultation as a teaching/learning process;
9. Informal statistical learning from reading research literature.

More information can be obtained from:



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ICME 9

Tokyo/Makuhari, Japan, July 31st–6th August 2000

IASE will have a strong presence at the ICME 9 meeting to be held in Tokyo/Makuhari, Japan, in August 2000. A plenary paper will be given by Mike Shaughnessy, USA, "From Research to Teaching: What Research Suggests about Teaching Data and Chance."

A Topic Study Group, TSG4, has the theme "Statistics and Statistical Education for the year 2000 plus". Susan Starkings from South Bank University, London, England with Professor Tae Rim Lee from Korea National Open University, Korea, Chadjipadelis Theodore from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and Professor Kobayashi from Japan, are the organising committee.

People interested in submitting an abstract for a paper at the above conference should contact these organisers who have guidelines for preparation of manuscripts. They are looking for papers which feature statistical education issues for students from age 11–18, students in higher education and adults and that will fall into the following categories:

1. research that has been carried out on students learning statistics and how this can help the statistical educators of tomorrow;
2. new innovations used and/or proposed to be used in the statistics teaching environment;
3. practical examples of statistical work carried out in developing countries and the way forward for these countries;
4. work related statistical education and its relationship to the classroom;
5. how future statistical education can be enhanced;
6. global statistical education for the future.

Final abstracts to be submitted to Susan Starkings by October 1st, 1999.

Final papers to be submitted to Susan Starkings by 15th February, 2000.

For further details, please contact:



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Working Group for Action

The International Program Committee (IPC) for ICME-9 has established a Working Group for Action (WGA11) and invited Rolf Biehler of Germany and Barry Kissane of Australia, to serve as Co-Chief Organisers of this Working Group (WGA). The topic of this working group is "The Use of Technology in Mathematics Education (Computers, Calculators, IT Media)."

The WGA will cover a wide territory, so they intend to form special interest groups when the needs, interests and possible contributions of those attending are clearer to us. In particular, we expect the WGA to cover a range of levels of education (primary (elementary), secondary (high), post-secondary, teacher education), to involve various kinds of technology (calculators, computers, telecommunications, WWW and multimedia) and to focus attention on various aspects of mathematics itself (number, space, algebra, statistics, probability, calculus, modelling, etc).

Please contact the co-organisers listed above to make a contribution to the work of the WGA. They would like to know what kind of contribution you could offer (such as a report on a project, reflections on present and future developments, identification of curriculum development issues, principles of instructional design, in-depth empirical studies, etc.). Please also identify the level(s) of education, the kinds of technology and the mathematical aspects of your possible contribution. A short abstract of up to twenty lines would be helpful.



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Further detailed elaboration of the scope and direction of the WGA can be obtained, up to the date of the Congress, from:

website

<http://wwwstaff.murdoch.edu.au/~kissane/ICME-9.htm>

ISI 2001

Seoul, Korea

The IASE Executive Committee is currently working on a programme for the ISI meeting to be held in Seoul in 2001. They are near the final stages of presenting suggestions to the programme committee for consideration. Given the fact that nothing is finalised, this is only a very brief report on their plans, and once things are finalised they will provide more details. The Executive Committee is suggesting a variety of topics for consideration. The following are some of the key topics that will be proposed.

The major aim of IASE is to promote statistical education at all levels and in all parts of the world. Of particular importance is promoting statistics education in developing countries, so one session being proposed is a forum on the role of IASE in statistical education in these countries.

If statistical education is to improve, research in this area is key. IASE is proposing sessions dealing with research at both the school and post-secondary level.

Another important issue is the training of statisticians, both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. These sessions will provide the conference participants with examples of excellent programmes. This can provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the components of excellence in statistics programmes and, hopefully, consider the ideas in their own programmes.

It would be expected that technology might be a component of different sessions. However, since advances in technology are moving so rapidly, it would be useful to have a session focussing on technology.

These are not all the sessions, but should give members some of the ideas that IASE is proposing. These suggestions will give IASE members and other conference participants who attend the conference an opportunity to hear the latest thinking in key areas of statistical education.



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ICOTS-6

Durban, South Africa, 2002

It is a great pleasure for the IASE Executive Committee to inform the ISI members as well as the members of the sister associations within the ISI family that the Sixth International

Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS 6) will be held in Durban, South Africa, during mid July 2002.

The IASE will make a special effort to attract African participation, and in particular will offer some financial assistance to delegates from African developing nations. It is also planned that there will be strong participation from local school teachers.

The proposed theme of the Conference is "Developing a statistically literate society." The International Programme Committee (IPC) has now been established. It consists of:

- Maria-Gabriella Ottaviani (Italy), Chair
- Brian Phillips (Australia), International Organiser
- Dani Ben-Zvi (Israel), IPC Secretary
- Linda Haines (South Africa) President, South African Statistical Association
- Delia North, (South Africa), Chair of the Local Organising Committee

Proposed Topics and Convenors:

School Level: Lionel Pereira-Mendoza (Singapore)

Post Secondary: Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium)

Workplace: Carol Joyce Blumberg (USA) and René H. M. Smulders (The Netherlands)

Wider Society: Helen MacGillivray (Australia)

International Perspective: Vitalis Muba (Tanzania)

Research: Carmen Batanero (Spain) and Joan Garfield (USA)

Technology: Lawrence Weldon (Canada)

Other Determinants: Philip J. Boland (Ireland)

Local Teachers: Tyna Lamprecht (South Africa)

The IPC is confident that ICOTS 6 will be a great event for statistical education.

A temporary website, which contains all the news from ICOTS-6 and its venue, has been set-up by Brian Phillips at:

<http://swin.edu.au/math/ICOTS-6/welcome.html>

For further details, please contact:



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and:

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Senior Faculty - Biostatistics

The Maryland Psychiatric Research Center, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore invites doctoral applications for leadership in Biostatistics. The position is of an Associate or Assistant Professor level, and involves supervising statistical personnel, directing the biostatistics core of NIMH Intervention Research Center, and consultation/collaboration with clinical and pre-clinical neuroscientists.

CV to: Dr. Deborah Medoff, MPRC, PO Box 21247, Baltimore, MD 21228, USA. Information on: <http://www.umaryland.edu/mprc/>

The University of Maryland is an AA/EEO/ADA employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.