



Autumn/Winter 2001

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Message from the outgoing IASE President, Brian Phillips, Australia

As this is my last message in the IASE Matters as IASE President, I wish to thank all those I have worked so closely and intensely with since I first took my place on the Executive at its inception in 1993, and especially over the past two years during my term as President. I will not attempt to list all the achievements and activities of the Association over that time, but they have been very extensive and a credit to the small group of extremely busy, devoted people who so readily and freely give their time and abilities to help with the improvement of statistics education around the world. August was a very busy month with IASE activities; we had the SRL2 in Australia, the Statistics literacy Satellite meeting and the ISI statistics education sessions in Seoul. Preparations for ICOTS-6 in Durban in July next year are underway as well as for the ISI statistics education sessions in Berlin in 2003. We also produce a number of newsletters and articles on a regular basis to keep members informed of the Association's activities, all of which take considerable time and energy. Prior to that, some IASE highlights in the past year for me have included the ICME10 statistics education sessions and the IASE Round Table on *Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics* in Tokyo followed by the Golden Jubilee of the International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC) in New Delhi and Calcutta. Also, in April I represented the Association at the Symposium in honour of one of the founders of the IASE, Emeritus Professor David Vere-Jones, see report below. Being involved in these and other events has strengthened my belief in the importance of not only belonging to the IASE, but also being actively involved. I recommend that all members take an active part in the Association and to encourage their colleagues to join since it is critical for the long-term survival of the Association to have a strong and active organisation.

I particularly wish to thank all the executive members over the past two years for the terrific support they have given me and for all the effort they have put into the Association's activities. It was most pleasing to see the general interest in the Association when about 150 members voted for the incoming executive. All candidates received strong support and it is unfortunate that not all could be successful. Congratulations to those elected, there are many exciting projects for them to work on as reported in these IASE-matters. I wish Carmen, Chris and the rest of new committee very best wishes and hope they have as rewarding a time as I have in working for the IASE and I look forward to my future role in this great Association.

The new Executive is listed below.

President:	Carmen Batanero, Spain	batanero@goliat.ugr.es
President-Elect:	Chris Wild, New Zealand	wild@stat.auckland.ac.nz
Past President:	Brian Phillips, Australia	bphillips@swin.edu.au
Vice-Presidents:	Dani Ben-Zvi, Israel	dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il
	Carol Joyce Blumberg, USA	cblumberg@winona.edu
	Lisbeth Cordani, Brazil	lisbeth@ime.usp.br
	Gilberte Schuyten, Belgium	gilberte.schuyten@rug.ac.be
	Susan Starkings, UK	starkisa@vax.sbu.ac.uk

International Association for Statistical Education

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IASE web page: <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.html>

CONFERENCE REPORTS

A Symposium in Honour of David Vere-Jones, April 19-21, 2001

Brian Phillips, bphillips@swin.edu.au

This most successful meeting was held at Victoria University of Wellington, NZ, on the occasion of the 65th Birthday of David. It acknowledged David's many far-reaching contributions across a broad spectrum including probability, statistics, education and the mathematical sciences around the world. David was one of the leading figures involved in the establishment of the IASE in the early 1990's. The IASE owes a big debt of David along with others including Joe Gani and Lennart Råde for having the vision and perseverance to see that our Association came to fruition. Abstracts of the papers presented can be seen at <http://www.statsresearch.co.nz/fest/index.html>



David with family

SRTL-2 The Second International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking, and Literacy, Australia, August 15-20, 2001

Chris Reading, creaing@metz.une.edu.au

The second in a series of International Research Forums, being offered under the umbrella of the Statistical Education Research Group of the International Association for Statistical Education, was held in Australia in August 2001. This Forum was sponsored by the Centre for Cognition Research in Learning and Teaching and the School of Curriculum Studies at the University of New England; the International Association for Statistical Education and the University of Minnesota. This gathering offered an opportunity for a small, interdisciplinary group of researchers from around the world to meet for a few days to share their work, discuss important issues, and initiate collaborative projects. The topic of the Forum was Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy. One outcome of the Forum will be the publication of a book summarizing the work presented, discussions conducted, and issues emerging from this gathering.

Presentations dealt with: reasoning about data and distribution through the statistical investigations of a third grade classroom, conflict between students' per-

sonal theories and actual data: the spectre of variation, statistical reasoning used by elementary and middle school students when they analyse and interpret data, conflicting representations of statistical association, from data via 'bump' to distribution, variation' from a student's perspective, assessment of students' statistical competence in computer supported statistics courses, statistical investigations: year 7 and 8 students' reasoning with multivariate data, conceptual issues in understanding sampling distributions and margins of error, comparing two data sets: reasoning and the influence of cognitive conflict, secondary teachers' statistical thinking about comparing two groups, methods for assessing and researching student reasoning about sampling distributions, validating types of reasoning out sampling distributions, students constructing global views of data and data representations. Visit the website at <http://www.beeri.org.il/srtl>

Statistical Education at ISI-53, Seoul, Korea, August 22-29, 2001

Seoul was the place for statistical educators to be last August where the importance of our discipline was demonstrated at the ISI-53 meeting. A total of 37 invited speakers and 14 discussants gave some wonderful presentations in the seven sessions organised by the IASE and the four joint sessions with other ISI sections/committees. Apart from these there were another 3 contributed paper sessions for which over 17 papers were presented on statistical education. This was a most successful time for the IASE. The complete texts of all papers are available on the ISI-53 site at <http://www.nso.go.kr/isi2001>

IASE Satellite Conference on Statistical Literacy

This was jointly organized by the IASE and the Korean Statistical Society and immediately preceded the ISI session in Seoul in August 2001. The program was organized by Brian Phillips (Australia) and Professor Yong Goo Lee, (Korea) was the Local organizer. Over 50 participants from more than 10 countries attended this most enjoyable and worthwhile program.

There were 14 speakers who spoke on a range of topics as below: Probability in first service course, Explora: A Chilean science and technology outreach program in probability and statistics, Korea teaching statistical concepts in the elementary school, Outcomes of a teaching experiment, 'KISC' and 'CODAK': An indirect yet effective way of promoting statistical thinking in the general community of students and teachers, From propositional knowledge to conceptual understanding of elementary statistics, An educational software for the design of experiments, The graphical presentation of data in every day life, Training teachers to teach probability, Teaching statistical reasoning in elementary schools using age-appropriate methods,

Workshop on statistics of illumination, Statistical literacy and statistical competence.



We especially thank the Korean hosts, especially Lee Yong Goo, for their wonderful hospitality including a tour in a Korean Tradition Street and a wonderful dinner in the garden of the private home of the former President of Korea. Full details along with a photo gallery of the activities is available on the website www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/statlit.html

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

European Workshop on the Teaching and Diffusion of Statistics, Instituto Balear de Estadística, Palma de Mallorca, October 10-11, 2001

The General Direction of Economy of the Balear Islands Government (Spain), through the Balearic Institute of Statistics is organising a two-days European Statistics Workshop on “**The teaching and diffusion of statistics**”, to be held in Palma de Mallorca, October 10-11, 2001. The Institute looks forward to receive contributions, either by participating in the workshop or by sending short papers or written materials related to the workshop aims. Those interested would be able to present their contributions in the working group sessions.

More information is available from the Institute by phone (0034 971 176755), e-mail (ibae.caib.es) or, from the conference web page: www.caib.es/ibae/esdeveniment/jornades_10_01/main.html

Hawaii International Conference on Statistics and Related fields, Honolulu Hawaii, USA, June 5-9, 2002

stats@hawaii.edu

The 2002 Hawaii International Conference on Statistics and Related Fields is sponsored by the University of Hawaii - West Oahu and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources-University of Hawaii. The Conference will provide many opportunities for academicians and professionals from statistics and related fields to interact with members inside and outside their own particular areas of specialization.

Topic areas include also the Teaching of Statistics. The Hawaii International Conference on Statistics and Related Fields encourages different types of submissions

for any of the listed areas of Statistics. For more information about submissions see:

http://www.statistics.hawaii.edu/cfp_stats.htm

2nd International conference on the teaching of mathematics at the undergraduate level, Crete, Greece, July 1-6, 2002

[Ignatios Vakalis, ivakalis@capital.edu](mailto:ivakalis@capital.edu)

This conference will be centered around the following themes: educational research, technology, innovative teaching formats, curricula innovations, preparations of teachers, mathematics and other disciplines, distance learning. <http://www.math.uoc.gr/~ictm2>

ICOTS-6 Durban, South Africa, July 7-12, 2002

ICOTS conferences are the main IASE events, which are held once every four years. Proposals can still be submitted. For full details see ICOTS-6 IPC website <http://www.beeri.org/il/icot6>

PME 26, Norwich, UK, July 21-26, 2002.

The PME 26 conference will be held in Norwich, United Kingdom, at the campus of the University of East Anglia, from July 21 to July 26, 2002. We are delighted to be hosting PME 26 at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in the U.K. UEA is on the outskirts of the medieval cathedral city of Norwich in Norfolk and is accessible by air, rail and road. Built in the 1960s UEA is a modern university surrounded by beautiful parkland. We offer high quality, en suite accommodation on campus and range of conference rooms of all shapes and sizes! Norfolk also offers a wide range of leisure and cultural activities. See <http://www.uea.ac.uk/edu/pme26> or contact the Chair Anne Cockburn, at: pme26.chair@uea.ac.uk.

IASE Sessions, ISI-54 Berlin, Germany, August 2003

The IASE is very pleased to see that the increasing interest in our discipline has led to a large number of statistical education sessions at the ISI-54 session to be held in Berlin, Germany in August 2003. There are seven sessions to be organised by the IASE alone, with another four being jointly organised with other ISI-sections and guest societies. Gilberte Schuyten is coordinating our section of the program and anyone interested in more information should contact Gilberte at gilberte.schuyten@rug.ac.be

IASE PUBLICATIONS

IASE Statistical Education Research Newsletter

[Carmen Batanero, batanero@goliat.ugr.es](mailto:batanero@goliat.ugr.es).

The third issue for 2001 of the SERN is available at <http://www.ugr.es/local/batanero/sergroup.htm>

The aim of this Newsletter is to encourage research activity and collaborative projects by IASE members and to facilitate the exchange of information. We will be glad to receive short papers, bibliographies on specific topic and summaries of publications related to research in statistics education.

Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics

This refereed book contains the papers and reactions from the IASE Round Table Conference, Tokyo 2000. Edited by Carmen Batanero, ISBN 90-73592-19-4. Published by: International Association for Statistical Education, International Statistical Institute. Available from: ISI Permanent Office, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, PO Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Teaching statistics is moving forward in Norway

The Norwegian Statistical Association has recently become more involved in questions concerning the teaching of statistics. A committee for teaching was established in 1989. The Scandinavian Conference on Mathematical Statistics at Røros 1992 arranged by the Norwegian association had a special session on teaching statistics. The Teaching committee with the members: Jostein Lillestøl (Norwegian School of Economics jostein.lillestol@nhh.no), Ivar Heuch (University of Bergen Ivar.Heuch@mi.uib.no), Henrik Dahl (Agder College) were engaged when probability and statistics was introduced in Norwegian schools (16-19 years) in 1994 by a reorganization named Reform 94. The committee gave advice to publishers of textbooks. Subsequently several Norwegian statisticians have been engaged in issues of teaching. On August 16th 2000 a meeting was arranged in Kristiansand sponsored by the Statistical Society of Norway with the following educational papers focusing on: further education being relevant in northern Norway, teaching statistics to business students, how to make best use of computers in statistical education and the last revisions of teaching plans for students about 16 years of age. The homepage of the Norwegian Statistical Association is: [http:// www.math.uio/nsf/](http://www.math.uio/nsf/)

Training Statisticians in Peru

Victor Manuel Maehara Oyata vmaehara@correo.lamolina.edu.pe

The Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (near Lima) is the first University in Peru that started the training of statisticians in 1962. Since 1992 students are also trained in computer sciences (Statistics and Computer Engineering). After finishing their studies, these professionals work in public and private companies and institutions (e.g., health services, marketing,

banks or companies. From an average number of 60 students starting their studies each year only 20 of them graduate. The department is also offering basic statistical training for other types of study such as Agronomy, Zoötechnology, food industry, environmental management, forestry, fishing industries, biology and economy. This year the number of students attending these courses is around 400, from which only 50% pass the final evaluation. The content of this course is as follows: basic concepts, organising data, probability, random variables, sampling distributions, linear regression analysis. There are now 23 lecturers in the Department, and all of them were trained in the University as statisticians. Although courses on education and general didactics are available, specific training activities will be organised to improve knowledge of statistics education. The department is trying to establish international links. Other Universities training statisticians in Peru are in Lima, Ancash, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Piura, La ciudad del Cuzco and in Puno.

Promotion of quality in teaching statistics at University level in Argentina

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The Ministry of Education in Argentina organised this year a pilot experience to promote quality teaching at university levels with the aim of strengthening the basic disciplines that are common to different specialities at the different universities in Argentina. The main aim was providing university lectures with the opportunity to do short stages (1-2 months) in foreign universities centres and getting updated in the use of new technologies and in pedagogical innovations. From a total of 175 projects, 30 were approved. Three of them were focused on the teaching of statistics: Statistics education and the role of technology in teaching and learning statistics, Innovative pedagogical project for mathematics teachers' teaching practices, Data analysis and probability: Strategies for improving understanding.

VISIT us at <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/>