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IASE-ISLP INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL LITERACY PROJECT

*Carol Joyce Blumberg
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During the past 14 months, several decisions have been made concerning the IASE World Numeracy Project, based on feedback from meetings during the ISI Biennial Session in Seoul, emails from numerous individuals, and discussion among the IASE Executive Committee. First, it was decided to change the name of the project to the International Statistical Literacy Project, with an abbreviation of ISLP. It was also decided that the first project of the ISLP would be to work with Yadolah Dodge (Université de Neuchâtel) to include more statistics education terms in the new edition of the ISI Dictionary of Statistical Terms. This project has been completed. It was further decided by the IASE Executive Committee that the next project of the ISLP would be the creation of a website. An Advisory Committee for the ISLP was formed to guide the project over the next few years. The members of the Advisory Committee are Carol Joyce Blumberg (USA, Chair), Beverley Carlson (USA/Chile), Iddo Gal (Israel), Orhan Güvenan (Turkey), John Harraway (New Zealand), Peter Holmes (UK), Maria A. Pannone (Italy), René Padieu (France) and Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium). Ex-Officio members of the Committee are: Carmen Batanero (Spain, IASE President), Christopher Wild (New Zealand, IASE President-Elect), Marcel Van den Broecke (Director, ISI Permanent Office), and Daniel Berze (Assistant Director, ISI Permanent Office).

The focus of the website is on resources to enhance the development of statistical literacy. Most of the entries on the web pages will be 3 to 5 sentence summaries of various publications, websites, etc. The emphasis will be on materials that can be obtained for free over the Internet or via other means. Materials that must be purchased at a cost will also be included, when appropriate. Complete ordering information, including direct Internet links, will be given for all entries. The website will be maintained at Winona State University by Carol Joyce Blumberg. It is expected that the website will be ready for use around 1 February 2003. Once the website is available, announcements will be made in the ISI Newsletter and elsewhere.

The website will be organised as a series of web pages with each web page having its own co-ordinators. The web pages and co-ordinators will be:

International Association for Statistical Education

A section of the International Statistical Institute, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, PO Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg,
The Netherlands [Tel: +31 70-3375737, Fax: +31 70-3860025, E-mail: isi@cs.vu.nl]

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

A. Introductory page with definitions of statistical literacy, some general resources on statistical literacy, and an explanation of what is and is not included on the website.

Carol Blumberg, USA, cblumberg@winona.edu;

B. Resources for elementary school teachers to use in their classrooms.

Judith Zawojewski, USA, judiz@iit.edu and

Helen Chick, Australia, h.chick@unimelb.edu.au;

C. Resources for secondary school teachers to use in their classrooms.

Philip Boland, Ireland, philip.j.boland@ucd.ie;

D. Resources for elementary school teachers to use to improve their own knowledge of and teaching of statistics and probability.

Judith Zawojewski, USA, judiz@iit.edu and

Helen Chick, Australia, h.chick@unimelb.edu.au;

E. Resources for secondary school teachers to use to improve their own knowledge of and teaching of statistics and probability.

Philip Boland, Ireland, philip.j.boland@ucd.ie;

F. Resources for those training teachers, both those who are preparing future teachers and those who are giving further education to those already teaching.

Mike Perry, USA, perrylm@appstate.edu and

Gary Kader, USA, gdk@math.appstate.edu;

G. Resources for those doing official statistics to improve the correctness, usefulness and readability of their work. One part of this web page will be a listing of training programmes and centres that offer basic statistics courses focussed towards official statistics for those not already trained in statistics.

Reija Helenius, Finland, reija.helenius@stat.fi;

H. Resources for journalists and other members of the mass media to use that will help them understand and report statistics and statistical ideas correctly and in an understandable manner.

John Harraway, New Zealand, jharraway@maths.otago.ac.nz;

I. Resources for other adults who want to learn basic statistics on their own.

J. Resources for those who are working with adults to improve their statistical literacy skills.

K. Resources for planning and conducting a children's census or similar activity.

Neville Davies, UK, neville.davies@ntu.ac.uk;

L. A list of projects or other efforts in statistical literacy sponsored by the national statistics offices, national statistical societies, or similar groups. This list will be sorted by country.

Carol Blumberg, cblumberg@winona.edu;

M. A list of funding organisations that will accept grant applications from individuals or organisations that want to begin or to expand statistical literacy efforts in their countries or regions.

Carol Blumberg, cblumberg@winona.edu;

N. A collection of data sets that can be used when doing teaching or training in statistical literacy and links to collections of data sets that already exist.

Brant Deppa, USA, bdeppa@winona.edu and Christopher Malone, USA, cmalone@winona.edu.

Co-ordinators are still needed for the web pages on resources for adult statistical literacy. Also, several of the co-ordinators listed here would like to have assistant co-ordinators. People interested in being a co-ordinator or assistant co-ordinator, please contact Carol Blumberg.

Please send items for inclusion on the website to the appropriate listed co-ordinator or contact

Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@winona.edu, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Winona State University, Winona MN 55987-5838 USA. Tel: ++1-507-457-5589; Fax ++1-507-457-5376.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

ICOTS-6, Cape Town, South Africa, July 7-12, 2002

Report from the IASE International Programme Committee Executive

ICOTS-6 was undoubtedly a great success, both from the organisational and the scientific point of view. The 472 attendants, in fact a large majority of the IASE membership, met for six days, during which they presented their papers and ideas and discussed them in a friendly and quiet way. The atmosphere was of an active, scientific community open to new fellow members, happy to share their experiences, to receive information and input coming from different sources and suggesting new ideas and projects for the future.

The success of ICOTS-6 is based on a well-organised teamwork, on the possibility to access the Internet on a wide scale, and on the idea to enhance the paper quality via a voluntarily refereeing system.

The International Programme Committee members have co-operated worldwide, in all continents. So far away in term of physical distance, but so near for the aims of their efforts to gradually construct an interesting and useful programme showing the best of the activities, studies and research in Statistics Education, in order to work towards "Developing a statistically literate society". Through the interest of their proposals and the quality of the authors they invited, they ensured the standard of ICOTS-6 to be very high.

ICOTS-6 is the first ICOTS where a refereeing system has been proposed to the authors. This was due not only to the request coming from some

colleagues who needed their papers refereed for funding purposes, but also from a scientific desire of the Exec and IPC who thought that time had come to improve the quality of the papers presented at the ICOTS Conferences. This no doubt increased the task of the Exec, particularly of Brian Phillips who had to follow the refereeing process, but as Brian Phillips noticed, "The larger than expected response for authors to have their paper refereed was also most heartening". All papers whether refereed or not, underwent an editing process to ensure a quality product.

The papers presented at this Conference were numerous; nearly 300 papers form the Proceedings of ICOTS-6. In fact the IPC Executive Committee decision to produce a CD of ICOTS-6 Proceedings, rather than hard copy, has been very well received, and the work done by Brian Phillips and his Editorial Board to edit the CD has been epic. In addition some 25 posters were on display throughout the conference.

The scientific products of the Conference consist of: the CD of ICOTS-6 Proceedings, the ICOTS-6 Abstracts Book, the ICOTS-6 Papers for School Teachers and the ICOTS-6 Final Programme and Delegate Hand-book containing the poster abstracts. The ICOTS6 IPC website has a new home at: <http://icots6.haifa.ac.il/icots6.html>

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Hawaii International Conference on Statistics and Related fields, Honolulu Hawaii, USA, June 5-8, 2003

This second 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. Submissions related to the Teaching of Statistics are welcome.

Following types of papers/abstracts/submissions are encouraged: research papers, abstracts of completed or proposed research, student papers, poster sessions, work-in-progress, panel discussions, practitioner forums and tutorials. All submissions will be subject to a review process. For more information see:

<http://www.hicstatistics.org>, statistics@hicstatistics.org

IASE Activities at the 54th Session of the ISI, Berlin, Germany, August 13-20, 2003

Chair IASE, Gilberte Schuyten,
gilberte.schuyten@rug.ac.be

The programme is now complete. IASE has organised a wide and varied list of topics for Invited

Paper Meetings, both those organised by the IASE alone and in conjunction with other ISI Sections and Committees and guest societies. There is still time to propose contributed papers. For further information see: <http://www.isi-2003.de/>

IASE Satellite Conference on Statistics Education and the Internet, Berlin, Germany, August 11-12, 2003

Chair, Larry Weldon, weldon@sfu.ca

The IASE is organising a Satellite Conference in connection with the ISI 54 Session. The conference is organised in cooperation with the Stochastics Section of the German Society for Mathematics Education, the Max-Planck-Institute for Human Development, the German Statistical Society and the Special Interest Group on Probability and Statistics of the German Mathematical Association.

The IASE will be supporting some delegates from developing countries in Eastern Europe to attend the conference. Guidelines and information are provided at the web page

<http://www.ph-ludwigsburg.de/iase/>.

IASI IX Seminar of Applied Statistics 'Statistics in Education and Education in Statistics', Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 7-10, 2003

The Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), created in 1940, is a professional organisation that aims to promote the statistical development in the American region. As part of its program of activities, IASI has regularly carried out a series of meetings called "Seminars of Applied Statistics".

The seminar in 2003 should provide an excellent opportunity for exchange of ideas, dissemination of recent work and developments that took place in Brazil and the Americas over the last few years, together with discussion of perspectives for advancement in the future. The goals are to attract wide participation from researchers, university teachers, and professionals, as well as to encourage participation from students (graduate and undergraduate) and high-school teachers.

For more information contact: pedrosilva@ibge.gov.br

IASE Invited Paper Session 'Using the History of Statistics to Improve the Teaching of Statistics', San Francisco, California, USA, August 3-7, 2003

Organizer, Carol Blumberg, cblumberg@winona.edu

This invited session takes place during the Joint Statistical Meetings of the American Statistical Association (ASA), The International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical

Statistics (IMS), and the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) and will be co-sponsored by the International Statistical Institute (ISI), the ASA Section on Statistical Education, and the ASA Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences.

Herbert A. David gives a talk on "The History of Statistics in the Classroom"; he will explain how the use of historical, biographical, and anecdotal material can enliven statistics classes at all levels. David R. Bellhouse focuses on "Statistical Ideas in the Classroom – Lessons from History"; the theme will be that where knowledge of history becomes useful in a modern statistics course is in realizing that the history of statistics is a history of the ideas of inference and its relation to technology. Fred Bookstein deals with "Learning from the Coercive Power of Numerical Evidence: Three Classical Examples"; he will describe some of the valid ways that statistics have been used to build correct and powerful arguments, he will also sketch the pedagogy involved and ways in which these ideas can also be applied to the teaching of introductory statistics. The two discussants are Alan Agresti and Jeff Witmer.

Math/Stat TEAMS Conference 'Math/Stat Teacher Education: Assessment, Methods, and Strategies Conference', October 30 – November 2, 2003.

Communicated by Joan Garfield, jbg@tc.umn.edu

The American Statistical Association (ASA), with further sponsorship and organization through the University of Georgia's Department of Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Mathematical Education, College of Education are working as partners to plan the Inaugural Conference on Statistics in Teacher Preparation. This conference is the ASA response to the Mathematics Education of Teachers (MET) report released by CBMS (Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences) in Fall 2001. A planning meeting was held February 22-24, 2002 at the University of Georgia. This meeting was attended by 25 individuals, representing different organizations and areas of expertise in the arena of statistical education. The 2003 conference goals, content, format, identification of speakers, invitation process for participants and funding possibilities were discussed. A Steering Committee for the conference was put together to carry out the actual organization of the 2003 conference, using the ideas and strategies developed at the planning conference. The Steering Committee consists of Christine Franklin and Robert Taylor (both at UGA Department of Statistics), Carolyn Morgan (ASA-MAA Joint Committee), Landy Godbold (ASA-NCTM Joint Committee), Jeff Witmer (ASA Section on Statistical Education), Joan Garfield (ASA Undergraduate Statistics Education Initiative), Dave Fluharty (ASA Advisory Committee for Teacher

Enhancement) and Denise Mewborn (UGA Department of Math Education).

The organizers of the 2003 TEAMS Conference are currently seeking funds that will aid teams of educators to attend the conference. The invited teams will ideally consist of a statistician, mathematician, math educator, science and/or social science educator, and curriculum director or instructional leader from a local school district. The conference program will consist of: (1) plenary sessions presented by well known individuals who use statistics in their professions, (2) presentations about current model programs, (3) presentations about current research on how students learn and (4) workshops that provide the participants a sampling of activities used in current model programs and that would allow interaction between the presenter and the team members.

The inaugural conference will be targeted for 120 invited participants (institutional team members and handpicked presenters). The team members will be asked to apply for an invitation and must express a strong interest in following through with the goals of the conference. The conference organizers are also seeking funds to provide follow up grant monies that the participants can apply for in establishing programs at their home institutions. The TEAMS Steering Committee is very appreciative of the endorsement from IASE. One of the long term goals is to expand futures TEAMS conferences to include international teams. You can read more about the TEAMS conference by visiting the ASA website at:

<http://www.amstat.org/education/teams.html>

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IASE PUBLICATION

IASE has a new Publications web page. It is located at <http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/pubshomepage.htm>