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<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/>

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A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

During the ISI-55 meeting, the IASE Executive appointed us, Andrej Blejec and Larry Weldon, to edit the IASE matters insert of Teaching Statistics. First of all we would like to thank the past section editor Gilberte Schuyten for her excellent editing in the past few years. It may take two of us to maintain that standard! We decided to jointly edit this section (and the IASE section of ISI Newsletter as well) and hope to keep the section interesting and informative for the readers interested in statistics education.

The quality of this newsletter depends mostly on the information you can provide to the editors. Send us information about the activities in your country, news about members, announcements of forthcoming events, reports of past conferences, and anything that might be of interest to the IASE members.

*Andrej Blejec and Larry Weldon
Editors of the IASE matters*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE IASE

*Presented at the IASE General Assembly
during the ISI-55 meeting by
Gilberte Schuyten, IASE president
gilberte.schuyten@ugent.be*

As this is my first message as IASE President, I wish to thank all those IASE Executive Committee members from the past and all people who have been working on the advancement and improvement of statistics education through IASE.

I wish to thank Chris Wild for all he has done over the past two years as President. Thanks to him, the IASE webpage (<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/>) has become an important source of information about statistics education. As Past-President he will continue doing this so that the IASE webpage will become THE primary source worldwide.

It was amazing to hear from a speaker in the contributed papers session on statistics education at the ISI Biennial Session in Sydney (Australia), that this person became interested in submitting a paper for the conference by surfing the internet and hitting the IASE webpage and the ISLP (International Statistical Literacy Project) webpages (<http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/islplist.htm>).

I also wish to thank the four outgoing Executive Committee members Carmen Batanero, Carol Blumberg, Lisbeth Cordani and Susan Starkings and I welcome our continuing collaboration which includes Carmen's, Susan's and Lisbeth's role in ICOTS7

(<http://www.maths.otago.ac.nz/icots7>) next year in Brazil and Carol's role in the ISLP.

International Association for Statistical Education

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I am happy to start my term as President with a smoothly running organisation with devoted and enthusiastic people who share the same objectives: the improvement of statistics education worldwide and the recognition in the academic world of research in statistics education as a research discipline in its own right.

These last years have been very exciting times for statistics educators. More students than ever before are taking statistics courses at the post-secondary level. Graduates in statistics have no problem obtaining jobs. Training of researchers in statistics has made considerable progress in the last 10 years; statistics knowledge of graduates in science, business/commerce/economics, psychology, sociology and education has improved. More emphasis is being placed on statistics education at the primary and secondary levels.

It seems that we are moving in the right direction and all is going fine except the statistical literacy of the modal Helene and John. In our information driven society the level of statistical literacy needed for a sound critical attitude towards public information is increasing. Statistics literacy starts in the classroom at all levels. In too many cases statistics education at primary and secondary schools is a rather dry application of mathematical techniques, despite the improvements to curricula these last years. More statistics has to be included in initial training courses for mathematics teachers. This seems to me to be of the highest priority to break the vicious circle of teachers and students who know only statistics as a part of mathematics. Over the next years I would like to see the IASE to become a valuable partner in the discussion around these matters.

As the IASE we also want to expand our statistics education community to all parts of the world. Please inform us about people interested in statistics education so that we can combine our efforts.

I encourage all members to take an active part in the Association and to recommend to their colleagues to join IASE (membership form available at <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/members.php>).

I look forward to working with you to make the next two years productive for IASE and statistics education. I would appreciate any comments or advice that our members may wish to offer.

ICOTS-7: WORKING COOPERATIVELY IN STATISTICS EDUCATION

Salvador (Bahia), Brazil, July 2 - 7, 2006

Report by John Harraway, The Scientific Secretary of ICOTS-7



The International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) and the International Statistical Institute (ISI) are organising the Seventh International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS-7), which will be hosted by the Brazilian Statistical Association (ABE) in

Salvador (Bahia), Brazil, July 2-7, 2006.

Planning is now well advanced and the ICOTS-7 website at <http://www.maths.otago.ac.nz/icots7> is being continuously updated. It contains summaries of Topics and Sessions, abstracts for all the invited papers, contact addresses for invited speakers, session organisers, topic convenors and organising committees and much more about the conference organisation.

The website also has information about the charm of Salvador Bahia and pictures of the guest rooms and conference facilities at the Othon Hotel where the conference is being held. Conference participants are encouraged to stay at the Othon Hotel.

Call for Papers

Statistics educators, statisticians, teachers and educators at large are invited to contribute to the Scientific Programme. Types of contributions include INVITED PAPERS (now mainly complete), CONTRIBUTED PAPERS and POSTERS. No person may author more than one Invited Paper at the Conference, although the same person can be co-author of more than one paper, provided each paper is presented by a different person. Voluntary refereeing procedures will be implemented for ICOTS-7. Details of how to prepare manuscripts, the refereeing process and final submission arrangements are on the website.

Invited Papers

Invited Paper Sessions are organised within 9 different Conference Topics. The list of Sessions themes, with e-mail contact information for Session Organisers, is available on the ICOTS-7 website at <http://www.maths.otago.ac.nz/icots7>, under "Scientific Programme".

Contributed Papers

Contributed Paper sessions will be arranged in a variety of areas. Those interested in submitting a contributed paper should contact either Joachim Engel (Engel_Joachim@ph-ludwigsburg.de) or Alan

MacLean (alan.mclean@buseco.monash.edu.au) before September 1, 2005.

Posters

Those interested in submitting a poster should contact Celi Lopes (celilopes@uol.com.br) before February 1, 2006.

Special Interest Group Meetings

These are meetings of Special Interest Groups of people who are interested in exchanging and discussing experiences and/or projects concerning a well-defined theme of common interest. Proposals to hold a SIG Meeting specifically oriented to reinforce Latin American statistics education cooperation in a particular theme are especially welcome. In this case, the Organisers may decide to hold the meeting in the Portuguese and Spanish languages.

More information is available from the ICOTS-7 website at <http://www.maths.otago.ac.nz/icots7> or from the ICOTS IPC Chair Carmen Batanero (batanero@ugr.es), the Programme Chair Susan Starkings (starkisa@lsbu.ac.uk), and the Scientific Secretary John Harraway (jharraway@maths.otago.ac.nz).

REPORT ON IASE ACTIVITIES

ISI 55, Sydney 5-12 April 2005

Contributed by Chris Wild, IASE Past President and IASE programme Chair for ISI 55

The conference facilities at the Sydney Convention Centre were superb and close to all of the main attractions of Sydney. Though ostensibly late autumn, Sydney turned on beautiful warm sunny weather for us and Sydney Harbour and its environs were gorgeous. Many IASE attendees at ISI 55 had already met and established friendships at our very stimulating IASE satellite conference on the previous two days. The main IASE activities at ISI were our sessions and the IASE General Assembly. The IASE sessions were of high quality, in the main well attended, and stimulated some very interesting discussions. The panel discussion "Statistics for life: what matters most and why?" – which involved three generations of the ISI presidency and two other very provocative speakers – achieved its purposes of drawing in ISI attendees who do not normally attend education sessions, and giving us all a broader awareness of issues that are important in goal setting for statistics education.

The papers from the IASE invited sessions at ISI 55 are available from the Publications page of the IASE webpage, see

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/publications.php>.

The contributed papers and discussions will be available in few months.

The IASE Report 2003-2005 was presented briefly at the IASE General Assembly and is included in the "Final Report of the ISI Executive Committee to the General Assembly 2003-2005" available at <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/05session/05report.htm>.

At the Assembly John Harraway reported on planning and organization of ICOTS-7 next year in Brazil. In general discussion, members contributed many suggestions about how IASE could improve the effectiveness of our National Correspondents system and theme suggestions for the IASE satellite conference to be held in advance of ISI 56 in Portugal in August 2007, and the IASE Round Table to be held close to ICME-11 in Mexico in 2008. Other discussions included possible structures for young statistics educators.

The IASE General Assembly which was also the official point in time at which the 2003-2005 Executive Committee passed the baton to the 2005-2007 Executive Committee and Gilberte Schuyten became IASE new President.

IASE/ISI Satellite meeting in Sydney, 4-5 April 2005

Report by Brian Phillips and Larry Weldon

The IASE/ISI satellite meetings are always very friendly affairs and the one in Sydney April 4-5, 2005 was no exception. Leigh Wood kindly agreed to arrange for space in the University of Technology, Sydney when our tentative arrangement at the Sydney Conference Centre did not work out. The venue turned out to fit our group of sixty participants perfectly, and the facilities and refreshments were first class.

Twenty-four papers were presented over two days, with some time for discussion and socializing - although some people commented that they would have liked more time for discussion. The cruise to Manly and dinner at the Phoenix restaurant there was well attended - good food, good company, and the very clever song sung by Peter Martin went over very well, especially with the Australians!

The theme of the conference was "Statistics Education and the Communication of Statistics". The papers that were submitted covered various approaches to the problem, roughly classified as:

- Writing Reports of Statistical Studies
- The Role of Graphics in Communication of Statistics
- Outreach to Public and Schools
- Understanding the Language of Statistics

The conference opened with a Keynote Address by Stephen Fienberg: "To tell the truth: What we know about lie detection". Stephen reported his experience with a US National Research Council Committee that

worked hard to communicate to politicians the uncertainty resulting from administration of a polygraph test. Policies concerning its use for increased security actions depended on a careful understanding of the false positive and false negative rates. This example with such important national implications showed conference participants in a dramatic way the importance of statistical communication in public life, and not only for scientific or social research.

The overall message in the invited talks was that communication of statistics is a topic that is more important to students than our course outlines usually suggest. We need to raise the profile of communication issues in our statistics courses. We need to help students distinguish between the technical meaning and everyday meaning of the statistical jargon we all use.

The conference site is at

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/conferences.php?show=iase2005> and the papers are found at <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/publications.php?show=14> Also, some CD's of the proceedings are available for AUS\$20 from Brian Phillips (bphillips@swin.edu.au).

The Chief Organizers of the conference were Brian Phillips and Kay Lipson. The Proceedings Editors were Brian Phillips and Larry Weldon, and the conference CD was produced by Larry Weldon.

The next Satellite meeting could possibly be in Lisbon, where the next ISI is scheduled. If you have an idea for a theme or a suggestion about the format, please send it to Gilberte Schuyten, at Gilberte.Schuyten@UGent.be.

Update on the International Statistical Literacy Project

Report by Carol Joyce Blumberg, ISLP Coordinator

A very productive open meeting of the International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP) Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, 6 April during the ISI Biennial Session in Sydney. This meeting was attended by members of the Advisory Committee as well as several page coordinators and others who were interested in the project. At this meeting many suggestions were received for improving the webpages (see <http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/islplist.htm>) supported by the project. These suggestions have been implemented, including a new webpage on curriculum guidelines. Future directions for the ISLP were also discussed.

Every few months the ISLP sends out an email to people who have expressed an interest in receiving updates on the project approximately four times a year. If you were previously on the list and have not received an email, it means that we do not have an updated email address for you. Those wishing to

update their email addresses or to be added to the list of people sent updates should contact Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@winona.edu or Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Winona State University, Winona MN 55987-5838 USA or Fax: +1-507-4575376.

Also, please contact Carol Blumberg if you have any suggestions for the ISLP including items to add to the website or if you would like to become involved in the ISLP. In particular, several of the page coordinators are looking for co-coordinators to help them with their work on the webpages.

STATISTICS EDUCATION RESEARCH JOURNAL

Report by Iddo Gal and Andrej Blejec

The editorial board of the Statistics Education Research Journal (SERJ) is pleased to announce the publication of the May 2005 issue of the Statistics Education Research Journal (Vol. 4, No. 1). The issue has two regular papers and a Special section on research on reasoning about variation, which follows up on the Special Issue 3(2).

The complete issue, as well as older issues, can be downloaded from SERJ web page at: <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/serj> as a single PDF or individual papers can be retrieved separately. Access to issues of SERJ is free.

Inquiries and submissions should be sent to the Co-Editor Flavia R. Jolliffe (UK) at: F.Jolliffe@kent.ac.uk. Guidelines for authors and referees, a template for authors, and a copyright form can be downloaded from the SERJ web page:

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/serj>

NOTE ON PROJECT "ARTIST"

Report by Bob delMas

The ARTIST website (<http://data.gen.umn.edu/artist>) is an NSF-funded project developed by the team of Joan Garfield, Bob delMas, Ann Ooms, and Beth Chance and provides a collection of resources designed to help teachers of a first course in statistics assess students' statistical literacy, reasoning, and thinking.