

June 2001



## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATISTICAL EDUCATION

<http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.htm>

**Editorial Address:** Joan B. Garfield, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA. Tel: +1-612-625-0337, Fax:+1-612-624-8241; E-mail: <JBG@tc.umn.edu>, Web site: <http://education.umn.edu/EdPsych/faculty/Garfield.html>

**President of the Association:** Brian Phillips, School of Mathematical Sciences, Swinburne University of Technology, PO Box 218 Hawthorn 3122, Australia. Tel: +61-3-9214-8288, Fax: +61-3-9819-0821, E-mail: <bphillips@swin.edu.au>, Web site: <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/>

### 1.0 Report from the IASE President, Brian Phillips

As this is my last message in this Newsletter as IASE President, I wish to thank all those I have worked so closely and intensely with on IASE matters 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 of their time and abilities to help with the improvement of statistics education around the world. We are now busy preparing for several meetings including the SRTL2 in Australia in August, the Statistics literacy Satellite meeting and the ISI statistics education sessions in Seoul, and of course ICOTS-6 in Durban in July next year. 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. Some recent IASE highlights 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. This 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 have 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 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, see results below. 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 this newsletter. 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.

### 2.0 IASE Executive Committee, 2001- 2003

As a result of the election of all IASE members, the IASE Executive for 2001-2003 will be:

President: Carmen Baterno <[batanero@goliat.ugr.es](mailto:batanero@goliat.ugr.es)> (Spain)

President-Elect: Chris Wild <[wild@stat.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:wild@stat.auckland.ac.nz)> (New Zealand)

Past President: Brian Phillips <[bphillips@swin.edu.au](mailto:bphillips@swin.edu.au)> (Australia)

#### **Vice-Presidents:**

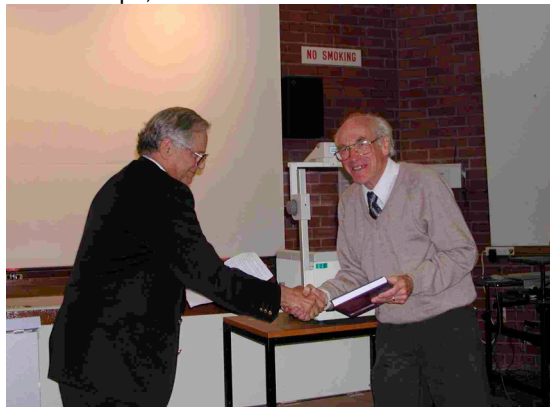
Susan Starkings, <[starkisa@vax.sbu.ac.uk](mailto:starkisa@vax.sbu.ac.uk)> (UK) Gilberte Schuyten <[gilberte.schuyten@rug.ac.be](mailto:gilberte.schuyten@rug.ac.be)> (Belgium)

Lisbeth Cordani <[lisbeth@ime.usp.br](mailto:lisbeth@ime.usp.br)> (Brazil), Dani Ben-Zvi <[dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il)> (Israel)

Carol Joyce Blumberg <[cblumberg@winona.edu](mailto:cblumberg@winona.edu)> (USA)

### 3.0 Report On "A Symposium In Honour Of David Vere-Jones"

Brian Phillips, Australia



This most successful meeting was held at Victoria University of Wellington, 19-21 April 2001, in honour of David Vere-Jones on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday. It acknowledged David's many far-reaching contributions across a broad spectrum including probability, statistics, education and the mathematical sciences around the world. In a special session, Joe Gani presented David with a Festschrift written in his honour. Broad themes for the Symposium included: probability and stochastic processes; history, statistics education; and applications of statistics.

The meeting was attended by over 100 people from many countries including Australia, USA, UK, Japan, China, Italy and New Zealand. This demonstrated the respect and affection of the many people whose lives David had so influenced. As David was one of the leading figures involved in the establishment of the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) in the early 1990's, I was invited to present a paper on his influence on Statistical Education. This turned out to be a very interesting and stimulating project as I explained in the paper:

"I first met David Vere-Jones at an International Statistical Institute (ISI) round table conference near Budapest in 1988. That wonderful occasion was superbly organised by Anne Hawkins, but it soon became clear that David was also very much involved behind the scenes. The meeting was about *Training teachers to teach statistics*, something that was obviously dear to David's heart. The group of statistical educators that Anne and David had drawn together were to become seminal in the formation of the International Association for Statistical Education, IASE. The next occasion I met David was in 1990 at the Third International Conference on Teaching Statistics, ICOTS-3, in Dunedin, another wonderful event in which David played a pivotal role. In 1993 we crossed paths in Perugia at the First Scientific Meeting of the IASE, a landmark event for the IASE another of David's initiatives. However, despite having the pleasure of getting to know David at these and other conferences, I now know that I really knew very little about this remarkable man. So, when I was asked if I would write about David's contribution to statistics education and started to research his life, a most interesting story emerged. His is a story not just of an academic mathematician and statistician; it is one of a life intertwined in some of the world's major historical events of the second half of the twentieth century."

Then later:

"In his formative years he experienced life in restricted war time Britain as a young child, spent his secondary education years in relaxed New Zealand, went on to study under the guidance of David Kendall as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University in the late 1950's, then during the height of the Cold War spent a year in the Soviet Union where he met and worked with some of the world's greatest probabilists. Since the middle 1960's he has been based in New Zealand but has also travelled and worked in a number of countries including Australia, India, Japan and China, as well as making numerous trips back to England and Russia." David wrote:

"These opportunities have come to me not as an explorer, a journalist, an interpreter even, but through being a mathematician, and that at a modest level. Whatever dreams of adventure I may have had as a child, I never thought that some opportunities could come, of all things, from a career in mathematics."

David's extensive influence on so many people from many parts of the world was clearly seen at the meeting. In recent years he has been involved in a number of projects on studies of earthquakes, especially in China and Japan where, as elsewhere, he is held in very high esteem. This symposium partially overlapped with the 2nd International Workshop on Statistical Seismology. Abstracts of the papers presented can be seen on the website <http://www.statsresearch.co.nz/fest/index.html>. Papers from the Symposium and Workshop will be published together in a special issue of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics*.

There was also a most enjoyable social program associated with the Symposium, including a Conference Dinner where many dignitaries talked about their experiences with David, a "mandatory" tour of a nearby wonderful wine district and a walking tour of a unique island bird reserve. A photograph record of the event is available on <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/dvj1.html>

The IASE owes a big debt of David Vere-Jones along with others including Joe Gani and Lennart Råde for having the vision and perseverance to see that our Association came to fruition.

#### 4.0 Statistical Education Research Newsletter, SERN

Carmen Baterno, Spain

The aim of this Newsletter, which is located at the web site: <http://www.ugr.es/local/batanero/sergroup.htm> 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.

The latest edition, SERN v2(2), includes:

- a paper by Richard SCHEAFFER, currently President of the American Statistical Association and a former Vice President of the IASE, which provides an excellent perspective on the history and future of statistics education.
- a response to reactions in SERN 2(1) "Building a Research Agenda for Statistics Education" in which statistics educators with varied research experience and backgrounds gave their priorities to research questions in statistics education
- an article on the Research group at the University of Granada which has been funded to develop a 3-year Research Project by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture. The aim is to improve and develop the group's Internet page (<http://www.ugr.es/local/batanero/>) in they aim to produce survey works in Spanish language. about research in statistics education and make these materials available to teachers and researchers. *Hipótesis Alternativa*, a new statistics education newsletter written in Spanish language and produced by Audy Salcedo, Venezuela is now also available from this same server.
- a bibliography of the emotional dimension in mathematics education by *Inés Gómez-Chacón*, *Mathematics Education, Instituto de Estudios Pedagógicos Somosaguas, Madrid, Spain*, [ines@ieps.es](mailto:ines@ieps.es)>
- information about past and forthcoming conferences, summaries of Publications by IASE Members and Recent Dissertations in Statistics Education

#### 5.0 Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics Book

Carmen Baterno, Spain

The *Round Table Conference on The Training of Researchers in the Use of Statistics* was held at the Institute of Statistical Mathematics in Tokyo, August 7-11, 2000 and was sponsored by the IASE and the ISI, the Institute of Statistical Mathematics and the Japan Statistical Society.

This book is a part of an international collaborative process, which started in 1997, when the IASE Executive Committee decided the topic for this Conference and asked the Scientific Committee to produce a Discussion Document describing the aims of the conference. The conference was announced through the IASE and ISI publications, and through a number of statistics and mathematics education journals. The IASE organised a refereeing process to assure fairness and quality in the process of selection the papers and invited some reactors for every set of related papers.

The 48 participants, included professional and official statisticians, lecturers, researchers and statistics educators, and represented different countries of the five continents, as well as developed and developing countries. After the conference, the authors were given some additional time to produce a revision of the papers, taking into account the discussions held.

We hope this book will serve as a starting point for other lecturers, researchers and statistics educators to reflect on the statistical training of researchers in empirical sciences, to change their teaching approaches, to improve the interest to collaborate in applied research and to start new didactical research on some of the problems described.

##### Book reference:

*Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics*

*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*

## **6.0 Teaching Statistics Is Moving Forward In Norway**

Henrik Dahl, 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) Ivar Heuch (University of Bergen) 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. 16 August 2000 a meeting was arranged in Kristiansand sponsored by the Statistical Society of Norway with the following participants: Elinor Ytterstad (University of Tromsø) Tore Wentzel-Larsen and Rolf Wolden (Bodø College) Ivar Heuch (University of Bergen) Ørnulf Borgan (University of Oslo) Torfinn Torp (Norwegian Agricultural University, Ås) Henrik Dahl (Agder College) Hege Therese Syvertsen (Kristiansand)

Elinor had a presentation about further education being relevant in northern Norway. Tore and Rolf had a presentation about teaching statistics to business students. Ivar discussed how to make best use of computers in statistical education. Ørnulf had a presentation about the last revisions of teaching plans for students about 16 years of age. He has recently contributed a chapter to one of the textbooks for that level.

## **7.0 Statistics Education at AERA 2001**

Michael A. Seaman, USA

The Educational Statisticians Special Interest Group (SIG) of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) is a group of over 200 researchers interested in statistics as applied to educational, behavioral, and social problems. Members of the SIG include statisticians, academics in departments affiliated with education, psychology, or statistics, measurement experts from testing companies, publishing houses, and research organizations, researchers from a variety of educational organizations, and others interested in the promotion of sound statistical practice in education and other settings.

This year the Educational Statisticians SIG sponsored nine sessions as part of the annual meeting of AERA, held from April 10 to 14 in Seattle. Four of the sessions featured short paper presentations highlighting current research in the areas of experimental design, multiple-comparison procedures, equivalency testing, effect size analysis, statistical modeling, factor analysis, survey research, and bootstrapping. Two symposiums offered participants a chance for more in-depth learning and discussion of highlighted topics. One of these symposiums focused on issues in handling missing data in statistical analysis and the other highlighted perspectives on teaching applied statistics. Two roundtable discussion sessions on teaching educational statistics and issues in statistical methodology allowed participants a chance for small-group discussions with the authors of papers.

A highlight of the meeting was the invited address given by Erich Lehmann. Professor Lehmann spoke on the topic of nonparametric methods in a presentation titled, "The Assumption of Normality: Should We Trust It? Do We Need It?" For more information on the Educational Statisticians SIG, visit the SIG website at <http://orme.uark.edu/edstatsig.htm>.

## **8.0 Forthcoming Conferences**

### **25th PME conference, 12 - 17 July, 2001, Utrecht, The Netherlands**

Following the PME25 Conference, a SUMMER SCHOOL will be organized by the Freudenthal Institute. The theme for the PME 25 Conference will be "25 years of PME: Past and Future Challenges".

*Further information:* <http://www.fi.uu.nl/pme25> or contact Marja van den Heuvel-Panhuizen University of Utrecht, Freudenthal Institute Utrecht, The Netherlands. Email: <m.vandenheuvel@fi.uu.nl>

<b>SRTL 2    The Second International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking, and Literacy</b> <a href="http://www.beeri.org.il/srtl">http://www.beeri.org.il/srtl</a>
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The Second International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy (SRTL-2) will meet from 15 August to 20 August 2001 at the University of New England, Armidale in Northern New South Wales Australia. The research forum is being organized following the resounding success of the first SRTL which was held at Kibbutz Be'eri in Israel in July 1999. The SRTL-2 gathering is sponsored by The IASE Statistical Education Research Group (IASE SERG); The Centre for Cognition Research in Learning and Teaching (CRILT) at the UNE; The School of Curriculum Studies (SCS) at the UNE; the Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies (FEHPS) at UNE; and The University of Minnesota, USA.

The STRL-2 Forum offers an opportunity for a small number of researchers from around the world to meet for a few days to share their work, discuss important issues and initiate collaborative projects. The researchers attending are: Arthur Bakker, Don Bentley, Dani Ben-Zvi, Rolf Biehler, Beth Chance, Jose Luis Cortina, Bob DelMas, Mark Earley, Joan Garfield, Sharon Gunn, Ruth Heaton, Graham Jones, Katie Makar, Bill Mickelson, Jonathon Moritz, John Pegg, Maxine Pfannkuch, Chris Reading, Mike Shaughnessy, Pat Thompson and Jane Watson.

Sessions will be held in an informal style, with small groups of participants meeting together to share the details of their work. The focus of the Research Forum this year will be the Reasoning aspect of SRTL. Presentations within the five small groups will centre around Reasoning about: Data and Distribution, Variability and Sampling, Comparing Distributions, Bivariate Data, and Sampling Distributions. Discussants will then react to each of the presentations. This format allows participants to validate their interpretations, as well as reflect and expand on their conclusions, which are then presented to the large group in a briefer format. Session plans and background readings are now being submitted by the participants. The Research Forum will conclude with a Panel discussion: What We Can Learn From Mathematics Education.

For up-to-date information about SRTL-2 visit the website at [www.beeri.org.il/srtl](http://www.beeri.org.il/srtl), or for specific queries email the local organizer Chris Reading <[creading@metz.une.edu.au](mailto:creading@metz.une.edu.au)>.

**IASE Satellite Conference on Statistical Literacy**

**Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX), Seoul, Korea, 21-22 August, 2001**

Plans for the satellite conference on statistical literacy which immediately precedes the ISI session in Seoul are now in place. It includes a number of international speakers and two workshops designed for teachers. The approach will be non-technical, suitable for a non-specialist audience who would like to learn how to make better use of probability and statistical ideas in their everyday and working lives in areas in which chance and risk is involved. This meeting is intended to be of interest to a wide cross section of society including teachers, educational administrators, researchers in statistical education and in probabilistic reasoning and others who want to gain a better grasp of statistics in general and who would like to broaden their knowledge of statistics applications. It should also be of interest to people wishing to understand more about risk in making investments and gambling, by those concerned with interpreting sociological, economical, political, scientific or educational reports, predicting sports results, by policy makers, journalists, health professionals and others from the general population.

**More information:** See web page: <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/statlit.html>

**Contacts:** Professor Yong Goo Lee, Department of Applied Statistics, Chung Ang University, Seoul, Fax : +82-2-816-8079, <[leeyg@cau.ac.kr](mailto:leeyg@cau.ac.kr)> or Brian PHILLIPS, School of Mathematical Sciences, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia, , Fax: +61 3 9819 0821, <[bphillips@swin.edu.au](mailto:bphillips@swin.edu.au)>

**International Statistical Institute, 53rd Session Seoul, Korea, 22-29 August, 2001**

IASE Sessions for ISI-53 are now in place and can be seen at <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/isi53.html>. Lionel Pereira-Mendoza <[lpereira@nie.edu.sg](mailto:lpereira@nie.edu.sg)> is co-ordinating this section of the ISI programme. **IASE members and others interested in statistics education should make a special effort to attend these sessions and the IASE general assembly which will be held during the congress.**



THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON TEACHING STATISTICS

Durban, South Africa, 7 - 12 July 2002

IPC Website: <http://www.beeri.org.il/icots6>

LOC Website: <http://icots.itikzn.co.za/>



ICOTS 6

The preparations for the Sixth International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS-6) are well under way. The Conference is organized by the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE), the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and the South African Statistical Association (SASA). ICOTS-6 will take place in Durban (South Africa) from July 7 – 12, 2002. As the conference theme for ICOTS-6 is 'Developing a statistically literate society', special sessions on statistical literacy are planned. The keynote speakers are given below and there will be special sessions on statistics literacy and the role of statistics in a number of everyday contexts as well as special sessions designed for local teachers. Most of the invited speakers are in place and their abstracts posted the in the ICOTS-6 IPC Website <http://www.beeri.org.il/icots6/>. The second announcement with full registration details, fees, accommodation, travel and tours is due in July 2001.

In ICOTS-6 there is the option of a full paper *refereeing process* for those who desire it. The refereeing process provides a mechanism for peer review and critique and so contributes to the overall quality of statistics education research and teaching. More details about the refereeing process, as well as the general authors' instructions, can be viewed in the ICOTS-6 IPC Website under *Announcements*.

The keynote plenary sessions are:

1. Opening Address: Professor Volmink (South Africa) , 2. Iddo Gal (Israel) and Scott Murray (Canada)
3. Joan Garfield (USA), 4. Peter Holmes (UK), 5. International Forum: Panel including Jessica Utts (USA)
6. Closing speaker: Maria-Gabriella Ottaviani (Italy), 7. After Dinner Speaker: George W. Cobb (USA)

#### Important deadlines

Proposals/papers can still be submitted for the following:

For *contributed papers*: *refereed* - until Oct. 1, 2001; *non-refereed* - until Jan. 1, 2002 (contact: Susan Starkings, [starkisa@sbu.ac.uk](mailto:starkisa@sbu.ac.uk)).

For *posters*, until Feb. 1, 2002 (contact: Andrew I. Dale, [dale@scifs1.und.ac.za](mailto:dale@scifs1.und.ac.za)).

For *demonstrations, forums* and *special sessions*, until Feb. 1, 2002 (contact: Maria-Gabriella Ottaviani, [mariagabriella.ottaviani@uniroma1.it](mailto:mariagabriella.ottaviani@uniroma1.it)). For full details see ICOTS-6 IPC Website <http://www.beeri.org.il/icots6/>.

#### IPC Chair

Maria-Gabriella Ottaviani  
[ottavian@pow2.sta.uniroma1.it](mailto:ottavian@pow2.sta.uniroma1.it)

#### International Organizer

Brian Phillips  
[bphillips@swin.edu.au](mailto:bphillips@swin.edu.au)

#### IPC Scientific Secretary

Dani en-Zvi  
[dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il)

#### ISI-54 Berlin 2003 - Proposals Welcome for the IASE Scientific Programme

The IASE Programme Committee for ISI-54, under the chair of Gilberte Schuyten, has started their work in preparing the scientific programme for the Berlin 2003 ISI Session. Proposals for invited paper meetings are being considered for approval in Seoul. These proposals should be sent to <[Gilberte.schuyten@rug.ac.be](mailto:Gilberte.schuyten@rug.ac.be)>. and posted on the IASE Upcoming conferences site, <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/conferences2.html>