Planning for ISI Session 2009
Planning for the ISI Session in 2009 is already underway. Wendy Thomas is serving as the SCORUS Representative to the IAOS Planning Committee. Once again, we will be preparing two sessions focusing on Urban and Regional Statistics. We welcome your suggestions for topics or invited speakers. Please contact Wendy Thomas at wlt@pop.umn.edu with any comments or questions you may have.

SCORUS List Server for Friends and Members of SCORUS
In order to improve communications within SCORUS and reach out to our friends who have an interest in our activities, we have just initiated a new list server scorus@pop.umn.edu. Interested persons are encouraged to join the list by registering at: https://mail.socsci.umn.edu/mailman/listinfo/scorus.
All requests to join will be confirmed and reviewed to protect the list users from unwanted spam. The purpose of the list server is to provide an additional forum for discussion and facilitate our ability to inform interested persons of SCORUS related activities. If you have questions about the list server, please contact the SCORUS Secretary, Wendy Thomas wlt@pop.umn.edu.

The 2007 Session of the International Statistical Institute, ISI-56
Lisbon, Portugal, August 22-29, 2007
After a very successful ICOTS-7 in Brazil, we are already busy with organising the IASE sessions at ISI 56. The ISI biennial Session is the main conference of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, in August 2007. These Sessions are held every two years. The last was in Sydney in 2005. As it does at each major ISI Session, the IASE will be organising about 10 statistics education sessions for ISI 56. Please check the website at http://www.isi2007.com.pt/ for more information, and contact the session organisers below if you would like to offer to speak in one of the sessions.

IASE sponsored IPMs and their Organisers:
IPM37 Research on Reasoning about Distribution, Joan Garfield (jbg@umn.edu)
IPM38 How modern technologies have changed the curriculum in introductory courses, Lucette Carter (lucette.carter@gmail.com)
IPM39 Preparing Teachers of Statistics, Allan Rossman (arossman@calpoly.edu)
IPM40 Research on the use of simulation in teaching statistics and probability, Rolf Biehler (biehler@mathematik.uni-kassel.de)

IPM41 Optimizing Internet-based Resources for Teaching Statistics (cosponsored by IASC), Ginger Holmes Rowell (rowell@mtsu.edu)
IPM42 Observational Studies, Confounding and Multivariate Thinking, Milo Schield (milo@pro-ns.net)
IPM43 Teaching of Official Statistics (co-sponsored by IAOS), Sharleen Forbes (Sharleen.Forbes@stats.govt.nz)
IPM44 Teaching of Survey Statistics (co-sponsored by IASS), Steve Heeringa (sheering@isr.umich.edu)
IPM45 Studying variability through sports phenomena (co-sponsored by Sports Statistics), Brian Phillips (BPhillips@groupwise.swin.edu.au)
IPM46 Use of Symbolic Computing Systems in Teaching Statistics (co-sponsored by IASC), Zaven Karian (Karian@Denison.edu)

IASE Organising Committee:
Allan J. Rossman (USA) arossman@calpoly.edu
Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium) gilberte.schuyten@UGent.be
Chris Wild (New Zealand) c.wild@auckland.ac.nz

For more information, visit the ISI 56 website at http://www.isi2007.com.pt/ or contact members of OC.

Contributed by Allan Rossman

IASE Satellite Conference on Assessing Student Learning in Statistics
Guimaraes, Portugal, August 19-21, 2007
I have great pleasure in making a further call for posters for the ISI/IASE Satellite Conference on Assessing Student Learning in Statistics. The meeting will be held on 19-21 August 2007 in Guimarães, Portugal, immediately prior to ISI 56 in Lisbon. The fascinating historic city of Guimarães is about 50 km from Portugal's second largest city, Oporto.

This Satellite Conference invites papers on all aspects of assessing student learning in statistics. For example, we expect to have papers on writing effective exam questions, on exam implementation strategies, and on alternative assessment methods such as projects, lab assignments, and writing assignments. We also encourage submissions on how to use assessment to improve student learning, and on developing and administering assessments items to conduct research into student learning. Proceedings will be available free at the publication page of IASE.

Conference Committee
- Brian Phillips (Australia) (Joint Chair and Joint Chief Editor) bphillips@swin.edu.au
- Beth Chance (USA) (Joint Chair) bchance@calpoly.edu
- Allan Rossman (USA) arossman@calpoly.edu
- Ginger Rowell (USA) rowell@mtsu.edu
- Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium) gilberte.schuyten@UGent.be
- Larry Weldon (Canada) (Joint Chief Editor) weldon@sfu.ca

Local Organiser:
Bruno C. de Sousa (Portugal) bruno@mct.uminho.pt
For more information, visit the website at http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/conferences.php?show=iasesat07

Important Deadlines
IASE Satellite papers to be refereed: 31 January 2007
IASE Satellite papers not to be refereed: 31 March 2007
Authors must register for the Meeting by: 31 March 2007
Other participants register for the Meeting by: 31 May 2007
Final papers for proceedings: 31 May 2007

Contributed by Gilberte Schuyten

Joint ICM/IASE Study Statistics Education in School Mathematics: Challenges for Teaching and Teacher Education
Monterrey, Mexico, June 30 to July 4, 2008
Following the tradition of ICMI Studies, this Study will be comprised of two parts: the Joint Study Conference and the production of the Joint Study book. The Joint Study Conference will be merged with the IASE 2008 Round Table Conference.
The Joint Study Conference (ICMI Study and IASE Round Table Conference) will take place at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores, Monterrey, Mexico (http://www.mty.itesm.mx), from June 30 to July 4, 2008. Participation in the Conference is only by invitation, based on a submitted contribution and a refereeing process. Accepted papers will be presented at the Conference and will appear in the Proceedings that will be published by ICMI and IASE as a CD-ROM and on the Internet.

The second part of the Joint Study – the Joint Study book – will be produced after the Conference and will be published in the ICMI Study Series. Participation in the Joint Study Conference does not automatically assure participation in the book, since a second selection and rewriting of selected papers will be made after the Conference.
Proposed papers for contributions to the Joint Study Conference should be submitted by e-mail no later than October 1, 2007, to the IPC Study Chair (Carmen Batanero, batanero@ugr.es). Papers should be relevant to the Joint Study focus and research questions, as described in the Discussion Document (which is available at the Joint Study website (http://www.ugr.es/~icmi/iase_study/)). Guidelines for preparing and submitting the paper are also available in the Discussion Document. Please address questions to Carmen Batanero, batanero@ugr.es or Joan Garfield, jbg@umich.edu.

International Programme Committee:
Carmen Batanero (Spain)
Bernard Hodgson (Canada; ICMI Representative)
Allan Rossman (USA IASE Representative)
Armando Albert (México ITSM Representative)
Dani Ben-Zvi (Israel)
Gail Burrill (USA)
Doreen Connor (UK)
Joachim Engel (Germany)
Joan Garfield (USA)
Jun Li (China)
Maria Gabriella Ottaviani (Italy)
Maxine Pfannkuch (New Zealand)
Mokaene Victor Polaki (Lesotho)
Chris Reading (Australia)

Local Organising Committee:
Blanca Ruiz (Chair), Tomás Sánchez, Armando Albert
More information is available from Carmen Batanero, batanero@ugr.es or from the study web page http://www.ugr.es/~icmi/iase_study/

Contributed by Carmen Batanero

ICOTS-8 Data and Context in Statistics Education: Towards an Evidence-Based Society
Ljubljana, Slovenia, 11-16 July 2010
We are pleased to announce that the IASE Executive accepted the proposal made by the Statistical Society of Slovenia to hold ICOTS-8 in 2010 in Slovenia.

The decision was announced at the ICOTS-7 farewell dinner.
The first steps towards organising have already been taken by the IASE Executive: the conference theme has been chosen and the Scientific and Local Committees have been appointed.
The conference theme 'Data and Context in Statistics Education' emphasises two concepts that are key concepts at nearly all levels of statistics education. The subtitl 'Towards an Evidence-Based Society' offers a gateway to reflections about the past, present and future status of statistics in society.
and about the impact of statistics education on learning objectives. We shall learn about statistics and see how we learn through the use of statistics.

The International Programme Committee Executive
IPC Chair: John Harraway
Programme Chair: Roxy Peck
Information Manager: John Shanks
Scientific Secretary: Helen MacGillivray
Editor Proceedings: Alan McLean

The Local Organising Committee
LOC Chair: Andrej Blejec

ICOTS-8 home page http://ICOTS8.org

Contributed by Gilberte Schuyten

Statistics Education Research Journal (SERJ)

We are pleased to announce the publication of the November 2006 issue, Vol. 5, No. 2, of the Statistics Education Research Journal, SERJ. This new special issue can be found on the SERJ web page at: http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/serj. The whole issue can be downloaded as a single PDF (1427 KB), or individual papers can be retrieved separately. Access to SERJ issues is free.

SERJ Vol. 5, No. 2 (November 2006)

Special Issue: Reasoning About Distribution

Guest Editors: Maxine Pfannkuch and Chris Reading

Maxine Pfannkuch and Chris Reading
Reasoning About Distribution: A Complex Process

Chris Wild
The Concept of Distribution

Maxine Pfannkuch
Comparing Box Plot Distributions: A Teacher’s Reasoning

Chris Reading and Jackie Reid
An Emerging Hierarchy of Reasoning About Distribution: From a Variation Perspective

Theodosia Prodromou and Dave Pratt
The Role of Causality in the Co-ordination of Two Perspectives on Distribution Within a Virtual Simulation

Aisling Leavy
Using Data Comparison to Support a Focus on Distribution: Examining Preservice Teachers’ Understandings of Distribution When Engaged in Statistical Inquiry

This issue also contains an Editorial, and information about past and future conferences.

SERJ is the electronic peer-reviewed research journal of IASE, the International Association for Statistical Education. It is published under the auspices of the International Statistical Institute (http://isi.cbs.nl/). Instructions for contributors and additional information about the Journal's goals and policies, as well as archives of older issues, can be found on the SERJ website: http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/serj.

Contributed by Iddo Gal and Tom Short, Co-Editors

USCOTS 2007
United States Conference On Teaching Statistics
Columbus, OH, USA, May 17-19, 2007

The second biennial United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS 07) will be held on May 17-19, 2007, at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, hosted by CAUSE, the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education. The target audience for USCOTS is teachers of undergraduate and AP statistics, from any discipline or type of institution. Teachers from two-year colleges are particularly encouraged to attend.

The theme for USCOTS 07 is Taking Statistics Teaching to the Next Level. Next level has many interpretations, such as developing a second course, gaining more confidence in teaching statistics, moving students beyond statistical literacy to statistical thinking, and using the latest technology to improve teaching and learning. USCOTS is a 'working conference' with many opportunities for hands-on activities, demonstrations, networking, sharing ideas, and receiving the latest information on research and best practices in teaching statistics. Leaders in statistics education will give plenary talks, including Jessica Utts, Paul Velleman, Dick DeVaux, Allan Rossman and Mike Shaughnessy.

For more information and registration, visit the USCOTS web page http://www.causeweb.org/uscots/.

Contributed by the Editors; (from USCOTS web page)

2007 USCOTS Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education

The Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE) is pleased to accept nominations for the 2007 USCOTS Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education. This biennial Award is presented at the U.S. Conference on Teaching Statistics to an individual who, over an extended period of time, has made lasting contributions with broad impact to the field of statistics education.

The Award Committee (George Cobb, Dennis Pearl, Roxy Peck and Deborah Rumsey) will review nominations arriving before February 1, 2007. A nomination letter should include a paragraph stating why the individual is deserving of the Award and be signed by three nominators. Letters may be sent by e-mail or post to:

Dennis Pearl
Director, CAUSE
OSU Department of Statistics
1958 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210-1247, USA
E-mail: Pearl.1@osu.edu

More information is available at http://www.causeweb.org/uscots/awards/.

Contributed by Allan Rossman

Awards and Appointment

At the ICOTS-7 meeting in Salvador, life membership in the IASE was conferred on Carmen Batanero (University of Granada, Department of Mathematics Education), former President of IASE.

Susan Starkings, Head of Skills Unit, London South Bank University, was awarded the prestigious National Teaching Fellow (NTF) award that recognises and rewards teachers and learning support staff in higher education in England and Northern Ireland for their excellence in teaching.
I. 25th Anniversary of the European Regional Section of IASC
The European Regional Section (ERS) of IASC celebrated its 25th anniversary last December.
On December 11th, 1981, the IASC General Assembly, during the 43rd Session of the ISI in Buenos Aires, approved the establishment of the European Regional Section of IASC. To celebrate this event, Gianfranco Galmacci, former ERS Chairman, prepared a short history to recall the main steps, role and activities of this Section. The text can be found at http://www.iasc.isi.org/.

II. 2007 IASC-ARS Special Conference
The 2007 IASC-ARS Special Conference will be held in Seoul on June 7-8, 2007. The objective of this Conference is to promote Pan-Asian Collaboration between statisticians. Professors Yutaka Tanaka (Japan, IASC Vice-President), Nick Fisher (Australia, ISI Vice-President) and Wing Kam Fung (Hong Kong, IASC-ARS Chairman) will be the Co-Chairs of the International Organising Committee.
At this point Jeff Teugels (Belgium), Nick Fisher (Australia, ISI Vice-President), Stan Azen (USA, CSDA Editor), and Erricos Kontoghiorghes (UK, CSDA Co-Editor), Jae C. Lee (Korea, CSDA Co-Editor), Gilbert Saporta (France, IASC President), Lutz Edler (Germany, former IASC President) have accepted to be key speakers.
Please contact Professor Jung Jin Lee (Korea), Chair of Local Organising Committee directly at jjlee@ssu.ac.kr if you have an interest in this Conference.

III. IASC International Conference on Statistics for Data Mining, Learning and Knowledge Extraction – Aveiro, Portugal, 2007
IASC 07 is a Satellite Meeting promoted by the IASC, International Association for Statistical Computing, that will be held at the University of Aveiro, August 30th-September 1st, 2007. Aveiro is a small city near the sea in the centre of Portugal.

The purpose of the Meeting is to foster the interaction of researchers in the interface between computational statistics, data mining, knowledge discovery and statistical learning. The Conference Scientific Committee is formed by Carlo Lauro (Università degli Studi di Napoli “Federico II”, Italy) and Gilbert Saporta (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, France), as Co-Chairs, and also Jaromir Antoch (Charles University, Czech Republic), Stanley P. Azen (University of Southern California, USA), Tu Bao Ho (Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Japan), Pavel Brazdil (University of Porto, Portugal), Paula Brito (University of Porto, Portugal), Paolo Giudici (Università di Pavia, Italy), Erricos Kontoghiorghes (University of Cyprus, Cyprus), Gregory Piatetski-Shapiro (SIGKDD, USA), Edward J. Wegman (George Mason University, USA) and Djamal Zighed (Université Lumière Lyon 2, France). Manuela Souto de Miranda and Carlos Ferreira (Univ. of Aveiro, Portugal) are Co-Chairs of the Local Organising Committee.
Invited speakers are already confirmed: Mário Figueiredo from Portugal, Donato Malerba from Italy, Gilbert Ritschard from Switzerland and Arno Siebes from The Netherlands.
The registration process is now open on the website of the conference (http://www2.mat.ua.pt/iasc07/).
Authors of contributed papers can present their work as an oral communication or in a poster session. For a contributed paper to be included on the CD-ROM of the Conference, the paper must be loaded at the “PAPER SUBMISSION” system before February 28th, 2007, which is accessible after the registration process. A selection of very high-quality papers form the CD-ROM will be published in a special edition of the Computational Statistics & Data Analysis (CSDA).
Participants of the IASC 07 can buy their airplane tickets to Lisbon (250 km) or Porto (70 km) under special conditions using TAP as the official carrier company of the Meeting. Accommodation in local hotels or in the campus residences will be provided through Top Atlântico operated by TopTours. As those companies are also official partners of the 56th ISI Session, the travel and accommodation reservations will be simplified for the participants of both Meetings.

Important Deadlines:
Paper submission: February 28th, 2007
Early registration: March 31st, 2007