



The main activity of SCORUS in recent months has been the organization of the 21st SCORUS Conference, which took place at Belfast from 8 to 11 June. Many highly-qualified scholars originating from all over the world took part, a fact which facilitated a most important exchange of ideas and opinions.

Particularly lively was the debate which resulted from the two Round Table sessions, the contents of which will be published in an issue of *Cities and Regions*. This is the SCORUS journal which offers a forum for presenting papers and discussing the current state of urban statistics and research.

A short while after, SCORUS participated in the IASS/IAOS Conference in Aguascalientes, which took place from 1 to 4 September. Its title was "Statistics for Economic and Social Development" and it dealt with preparing for the two sessions concerning migration and social welfare.

SCORUS' activities will now be as follows: SCORUS will be contributing to the 52nd ISI Session to be held in Helsinki from 10-18 August 1999 with the preparation of three 'Invited Paper' Sessions. These are:

- 'Cultural Statistics' (organised by Rosa Giaimo, Italy);
- 'Registers and Surveys in Health and Social Service Monitoring' (organised by Markandey Rai, Kenya);
- 'Geographical Information Systems' (organised by Asta Manninen, Finland).

The next SCORUS Conference, the 22nd, will be held in Shenzhen, China from 8-11 November 2000 and the SCORUS Committee is currently working with the host organisation (ie, the city of Shenzhen, the Shenzhen Statistics and Information Bureau, the State Statistical Bureau, People's Republic of China and the Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong) to plan and define the exact content of the conference.

This joint work has already produced a provisional programme, the topics which are as follows:

- How to Measure the Level of Urban Development;
- Cities and Globalisation;
- Statistical Support for Economic Policy on Local and Regional Levels;
- The Regional Distribution of Economic Growth in Urban Systems;
- Population Strategies and their Impact on Urban Development;
- Indicators of Social Welfare;
- Urbanisation in Countries with a High Rural Population;
- The Phenomena of a 'Floating Population';

- Urbanisation and Segregation;
- Foreign Populations in Big Cities and their Impact on Urban Development;
- The Use of Business Data in Local Authorities;
- The Property Market in Cities, Urban Regions and Foreign Investments;
- The Comparability of International City Statistics;
- The Role of Municipal Statistics in the Official Statistical Systems of China and Other Countries;
- An Important Technical Issue about Cities which Utilise Sample or Survey Data to Produce and Present Urban Statistics; New Approaches, Methods and Tools;
- Young People and Big Cities;
- Urban Violence.

Further information can be obtained from:

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or from the ISI Permanent Office.

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## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATISTICAL EDUCATION

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### 1. Communication Networks for Statistics Educators

IASE keeps its members in touch by a variety of means. On the hard-copy publications front, the *International Statistical Review*, *Short Book Reviews* and the *Annual Review of International Statistics* along with *IASE Review* and the IASE section in the *ISI Newsletter*,

keep IASE members informed about the Association activities and allow contacts with other like-minded folk. As well as receiving the above-mentioned ISI/IASE publications free, members can still take advantage of concessionary rates on conference registrations and on the purchase of ISI/IASE books. On the electronic publishing front, IASE has a web site at the address:

<http://www.stat.ncsu.edu/info/iase/>

It is possible to access this web site directly or via the Journal of Statistics Education (*JSE*) Information Service at:

<http://www.stat.ncsu.edu/info/>

Those interested in research in Statistical Education are referred to the International Study Group in Research

on Learning Probability and Statistics, which started at ICOTS I, in 1982. Requests to become a member of the group or to get more information should be sent to Carmén Batanero (batanero@goliat.ugr.es).

One result of ICOTS-5 was the setting up of six new discussion lists about specific themes in statistical education. The group topics were:

- teaching statistics by distance education;
- teaching statistics to research workers;
- technology in teaching statistics;
- teaching statistics in post secondary settings;
- linking statistics teaching in schools with the outside world;
- linking official statistics with statistics teaching.

By October 1998, most of these lists had been launched as e-mail lists. The first two may be joined by sending the message 'subscribe tsdist-' or 'subscribe tsres-' to majordomo@swin.edu.au. They are run from Swinburne University in Melbourne, Australia, by Glenda Francis and John Taffe, respectively. The third and fifth lists, tstech-I and tsschl-I, are run from the University of Central Queensland (also in Australia), by Rex Boggs. To join send the message 'subscribe tstech-' or 'subscribe tsschl-' to majordomo@cq-pan.cqu.edu.au. You will receive a welcoming message with instructions on how to post to the list, as well as messages that others post to the list after you join.

Please help to make the ICOTS-sponsored e-mail networks a success. You all are invited to join at least one of these lists and to share your ideas. The list members may be found in the IASE web site. Further developments will also be posted there. More information can be obtained by John Taffe at jtaffe@vic.bigpond.net.au the "reference person" for all the groups on behalf of the IASE.

## 2. A tribute to a friend and colleague: Andrejs Dunkels (1930-1998)

by BRIAN PHILLIPS

The best part of being involved with an International Organisation such as the IASE is the opportunity to meet wonderful people from around the world. I am sure that many will agree with me, that Andrejs Dunkels was on the top of the list of people we



have been privileged to meet, listen to, work with, discuss ideas and have fun with.

Andrejs was born in Riga, Latvia, in 1939 where his father was a judge and musician. With his family, he escaped to Sweden in 1944, but was unable to return to Latvia for many years because of the Russian occupation. From 1959 he studied Mathematics and Physics at Uppsala University then worked as a teacher and university lecturer, obtaining an MSc(Ed) in 1965. From 1966 to 1968 he established the Mathematics Department at the Kenya Science Teachers College in Nairobi. In 1969 he took up a position in the Mathematics Department at the Umeå University in Sweden. While teaching, he continued his studies gaining a Licentiate in 1972 and Diploma of Education (Honors) in 1973. From that time on he worked at Luleå University, Sweden where he spent half his time teaching engineering students, the other half teaching student teachers, specialising in mathematics for grades 1-7.

Andrejs was equally at home teaching university students or working with young children in primary school and described his methods as small peer group teaching using an exploratory style. In 1986 he was awarded the distinction "Teacher of the Year" at his University. Over a period of more than 20 years from the mid 1970's, Andrejs delighted conference delegates round the world with many invited conference papers in mathematics and statistics education, wrote many articles and was author and co-author of numerous text books especially for primary school children. He was also the illustrator and translator of a number of texts and was heavily involved with many associations and publications in a number of countries. He was a sporty person who loved jogging, skiing, and hiking and was very musical, singing in a choir. He also had a passion for languages, his repertoire including English, Swedish, Latvian, Swahili plus some German and French. Anyone who was lucky enough to hear him speak would know what a great communicator he was. This was epitomised in his wonderful statistics cartoons called "Footies" which often appeared in his articles, and talks.

Andrejs started to have health problems in 1975. Despite his health problems Andrejs completed his Ph.D. in 1996 and travelled again. During the last few months of 1998, his condition was improving so we were all devastated to hear that he died of a heart attack on December 30, 1998.

Andrejs is survived by his wife Kerstin Vännman, a son and three daughters. Andrejs and Kerstin both showed a great passion for the teaching of statistics, Kerstin being one of the leading forces in establishing the IASE.

Our thoughts and sympathies go out to Kerstin and family.

Andrejs lived a wonderful life and had a great influence on all who knew him. He was a most warm and caring person who made anyone in his company feel special. He cared, he loved, he was open, he was an inspiration, he was Andrejs.

Many of his friends have the warmest memories of Andrejs. Unfortunately space does not permit including any of their comments here, but some have been recorded in an expanded article which is on the web (<http://www.swin.edu.au/maths/icots5/andrejs2.html>).

## 3. Profiles of the candidates for IASE Executive Office

This year elections will be held for the IASE Executive Committee. A paper ballot has already been sent to IASE members from the ISI Permanent Office and must be returned no later than March 31, 1999. There is one candidate for President-elect and six candidates for Vice President. Four Vice Presidents will be elected. All members who have agreed to participate in the election are actively engaged in promoting statistical education, as illustrated in the following profiles.

### President-Elect:

Carmen Batanero is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics Education at the University of Granada in Spain. Before entering this Department in 1988, she worked at the Department of Statistics, where she taught Probability and Biostatistics for 11 years. She is presently teaching statistics and statistical education, doing research and supervising doctoral dissertations on statistical education, in addition to being involved in doing consultancy and in the statistical training of researchers in Education. Her publications include research papers and books directed to teachers. She helped to establish a new stochastics group at PME (Psychology of Mathematics Education) and is currently co-ordinating the International Research Group for Research on Learning Probability and Statistics. She is Chair of the Scientific Committee for the IASE Round Table to be held in Japan the year 2000.

### Vice-President:

Dani Ben-Zvi is a research associate of the Science Teaching Department, at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. He teaches statistics and statistics education. He developed an innovative Exploratory Data Analysis curriculum, implemented it in schools and teacher colleges, and undertook research on learning. His publications address issues related to

the learning and teaching of statistics, including research papers on learning processes, the use of educational technology, and textbooks for students and teachers. He presented his work at local and international forums, including ICOTS, ISI, and IASE Roundtable. He currently serves as a co-chair of the First International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy (SRTL), a co-chair of the PME Stochastics Research Group, and as secretary of the International Program Committee for ICOTS 6.

Joan Garfield is an Associate Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota in the USA. She teaches courses in statistics and has focused her research on statistics education. She recently co-edited two books on statistics education, *The Assessment Challenge in Statistics Education* (with Iddo Gal) and *Research on the Role of Technology in Teaching and Learning Statistics* (with Gail Burrill). Current publications and presentations are on the assessment of statistical reasoning and on the use of simulation software to overcome misconceptions related to statistical inference. She has served on the program committee for ICOTS 5, chaired the 1996 IASE Roundtable Conference, and co-chairs the First International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy (SRTL). She is secretary of the Joint Committee on Statistics for the American Statistical Association and the Mathematics Association of America, and serves on the National Research Council's Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics' Research Advisory Committee.

Tae Rim Lee is professor in the Department of Applied Statistics, Korea National Open University since 1996. She is the editor of the Korean Statistics Dictionary. She has been the secretary of the Korea Association of Statistical Education (1997-1998). In the field of Statistics, the IASE serves many goals and a broad membership with diverse interests and needs. She thinks it is very important role for IASE to have initiative for the right way to support and contribute to the building of an intimate relationship between members who have a wide range of interests and goals.

Lionel Pereira-Mendoza has taught in England, Nigeria, Canada and is currently an Associate Professor at the National Institute of Education in Singapore. His primary research interest in the teaching of statistics to primary children and he has published extensively, particularly in journals that focus on the teaching of mathematics and statistics at the elementary school level. He has presented papers at both

ICOTS and ISI meetings. He organised the Round-Table in Statistics Education and was the IASE contact for ICOTS V, where he served on both the Local organising committee and the International Programme Committee. He is a member of the International Programme Committee for ICOTS 6 as well as a member of the ISI Programme co-ordinating committee for the ISI meeting in Seoul in 2001.

David Ospina is Statistics Director, National University of Colombia at Bogotá. He has been working at the National University since 1971. He has taught many different courses at the undergraduate and graduate level. However, his main area is sampling. He has directed several theses and written several articles which have been published mainly in *Revista Colombiana de Estadística* (Colombian Journal of Statistics). Some of his research experience has to do with social issues. As a member of a multidisciplinary group (anthropologists, psychiatrists and statisticians) he contributed to study the problem of rural and urban violence in Colombian families. Some books and several articles were published describing the findings of this study. As the Director of Statistics Programs, he has been able to detect and help to solve some of the main problems related to statistics courses that students and professors have to face every day. He is very committed to education issues.

Gilberte Schuyten is Professor in the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at Gent University, Belgium. She is head of the department of Data Analysis of the Faculty. She has an appointment at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences where she teaches statistics, data analysis, research methodology and didactics of mathematics. She advised the government in introducing 'New Math' curricula during the seventies and in introducing computers at schools in the eighties. Since 1990 she became involved with ICOTS, ISI and IASE. She presented several papers dealing with empirical research results during these meetings. Her special interest is in statistics learning of students in the social sciences focusing on the impact of student cognitive and affective characteristics and on the impact of electronic devices. She also participated with a research report at the IASE Round Table at Granada in 1996 and organised three sessions on 'Research in Teaching Statistics at Post-Secondary Levels' at ICOTS-5 in Singapore in 1998.

#### 4. The Korea Association for Statistical Education and Consulting (KASEC)

Dr. Tae Rim Lee, Korea National Open University (trlee@av9500.knou.ac.kr)

The Korea Association for Statistical Education and Consulting was founded in 1983 with the following objectives:

1. To promote the development of statistical education;
2. To exchange information and to standardise statistical consulting.

The number of members of KASEC is 186. They come from various research fields, including statistics, medicine, management, economics and statistical education.

The Regular meeting of the KASEC took place on December 12, 1998 at Korea National Open University located in Seoul. The conference was a nationwide scientific event for the dissemination of technical and educational information concerning cyber university and statistical education in the broad sense of statistics subjects and in as wide a range of applications as possible.

During the conference the following papers were presented:

1. The Cyber University and Education of Statistics (David , Sung Kyun Kwan University);
2. Statistical Data Analysis and Java on the Web (Sung-Soo Kim, Korea National Open University);
3. Calculation of statistical tables on the Internet (Jean Soo Whang, Inha University);
4. Statistical Analysis on the W.W.W.(Kyung Soo Han, Chonbuk National University);
5. Categorical Data Analysis on the Internet (Jong Seon Hong , Sung Kyun Kwan University);
6. Teaching Statistics On the World Wide Web (Jong K. Sohn, Kyungpook National University and Korea Virtual University);
7. Report on ICOTS-5 in Singapore (Tae Rim Lee, Korea National Open University);

During the conference the Korea National Open University cable television taped the sessions so that in January 1999, this conference was transmitted to the entire country through channel 47 entitled "Cyber University and Statistical Education.

#### 5. IASE Round Table Conference

Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics, Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan, August 7-1, 2000

Scientific Committee: Carmen Batanero (Spain), Theodore Chadjipadelis (Greece), Joan B. Garfield (USA), Anne Hawkins (UK), Yuki Miura (Japan),

David Ospina (Colombia), Brian Phillips (Australia).

Local Organising Committee: Yuki Miura, Kensey Araya, Masakatsu Murakami, Toshiro Shimada.

A description of this roundtable conference appeared in the previous issue of ISI News. Since this conference was announced, statistical educators from different countries and with experience in the training of researchers in fields such as education, psychology, sociology, biology, medicine or agronomy have started offering their contributions. It is hoped that papers will cover the outlined topics and in particular will discuss the teaching of experimental design, multivariate, bayesian statistics, the use of technology, co-operation in training of researchers in developing countries, continuous training of researchers, teaching at a distance, educational problems of consultancy, the influence of previous beliefs on interpreting association and the statistical tests controversy. There is still time to be involved in this conference, as the first deadline to submit your expression of interest is June, 30, 1999.

More information can be obtained from Carmen Batanero [batanero@goliat.ugr.es](mailto:batanero@goliat.ugr.es) or from the Web site: <http://www.ugr.es/~batanero/iasert.htm>.

#### 6. IASE's role in future conferences

##### ICME-9 Conference, Tokyo/Makuhari (Japan), July 31-August 6, 2000

International Program Committee Chair: Prof. Hiroshi Fujita

Major events: Plenary Lecture; International Round Table; Regular Lecture; Working Group for Action (WGA); Topic Study Group (TSG); Poster Presentation; ICMI Study Group; ICMI General Assembly; Social Activities; Exhibitions. Prof. Hiroshi Fujita has invited Dr Susan Starkings, the IASE member who acted as ICME-9 contact facilitator, to be the chief organiser of the Topic Study Group No. 4 on: "The Teaching and Learning of Statistics". More details can be obtained from Susan Starkings at

([starkisa@vax.sbu.ac.uk](mailto:starkisa@vax.sbu.ac.uk))

Other information may be obtained from the Web site: <http://ma.kagu.sut.ac.jp/~icme9/index.html>.

#### IASE Sessions in the ISI's 53rd Biennial Meeting — Seoul (Korea) 2001

Lionel Pereira Mendoza is the representative of the IASE within the Programme Co-ordinating Committee for the 2001 ISI Congress in Seoul (Korea). The Committee will meet during the 52nd ISI Session. Suggestions are being actively sought regarding session topics and organisers. There will be six or seven themes directly related to Statistical Education. Suggestions concerning any aspects of teaching statistics are welcome but preference will generally be given to topics of wide interest. Sessions that are organised in collaboration with IASE's sister associations within the ISI family are strongly encouraged. Suitable names and contact information for organisers, speakers and discussants will also be appreciated. Suggestions should be sent to Lionel Pereira Mendoza ([mendoza@singnet.com.sg](mailto:mendoza@singnet.com.sg)) or ([pereiram1@am.nie.ac.sg](mailto:pereiram1@am.nie.ac.sg)).

#### 7. The Journal of Statistics Education becomes an ASA Journal

Jacquelin Dietz, Editor, *JSE*, North Carolina State University, USA. ([dietz@stat.ncsu.edu](mailto:dietz@stat.ncsu.edu)) (<http://www.amstat.org/publications/JSE>)

Exciting changes are in store for the *Journal of Statistics Education*! As of January 1999, *JSE* is an official journal of the American Statistical Association. The new relationship between *JSE* and ASA will offer many advantages and opportunities to both parties. Subscribers will see some immediate changes and gradually a larger and stronger journal.

Since its first issue in 1993, *JSE* has been published independently by an international Editorial Board, with funding from the Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University, the Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (US Department

of Education), and the Exxon Education Foundation. For years, the journal staff has sought the financial stability and prestige that would come from sponsorship by a professional society.

ASA will subsidise *JSE* for a three-year period, with the expectation that the journal will become self-supporting, primarily through advertising. There will be a low subscription fee, \$10 per calendar year for all subscribers, whether or not they are members of ASA. This is in part a recognition that (despite net culture) nothing is really free, and in part a result of the need to give potential advertisers a meaningful count of subscribers.

The Table of Contents and abstracts will continue to be freely available, and the existing *JSE* archive will move to the ASA web site and will remain accessible to all. Future volumes of *JSE* will become freely accessible after one year, in yearly blocks. For example, the 1999 volume will become freely available after January 1, 2001. Current subscribers will always have access to all issues of *JSE*.

Subscribers will receive an e-mail announcement whenever a new article is released and will use a password to access current issues. The system of releasing articles as they are accepted rather than waiting until a full issue is assembled will further reduce publication delays. Articles will continue to be grouped in issues for bibliographic purposes. Because the World Wide Web is now so widely accepted, the ascii version of *JSE* will be discontinued.

*JSE* encourages the submission of well-written manuscripts that will be interesting and useful to teachers of statistics at any level from primary through workplace education. Dataset articles, articles that make innovative use of the electronic medium, reports on research on teaching and learning statistics, and articles by authors outside the United States are especially welcome.

JOAN GARFIELD

