



SSC LIAISON

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Message from
the President
1

Message from
the Editor
2

Reports
2

SSC 2007
4

Announcements
6

SSC *Liaison* Gets
New Editor
6

Upcoming Conferences
and Meetings
12

*The Canadian
Journal of Statistics:*
Coming Attractions
15

Consultants' Forum
16

Students' Corner
18

Article: Census on
the Cover II
19

News
20

Obituaries
21

Advertisements
23

Notice to Advertisers
26

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Dr. Sarjinder Singh is an Assistant Professor at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN, U.S.A.. He has published over 80 research papers. He introduced ideas of higher order calibration, hybridizing imputation and calibration, bias filtration, hidden gangs, several new randomized response models, median estimation using two-phase sampling, and exact traditional linear regression estimator using calibration.

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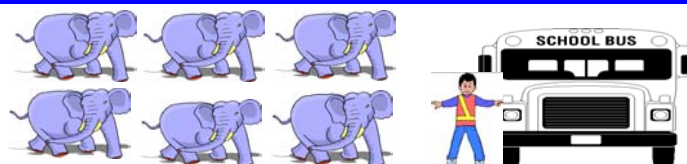
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Message from the President

Charmaine Dean

The Statistical Society of Canada aims to help society understand statistical thinking, how to be critical of methods used to analyze data and observe the cautions and limitations of resulting conclusions. Its mission also drives us to ensure that the research we do is conducted to the highest standards with care and attention, to carry out our training of students and development of our educational programs in a dedicated manner, to continue the development of better statistical methods, to bring members together in a variety of ways and help each other, and to allow interactions between various kinds of statisticians and specialties in our membership. Certainly the Society as an administrative body must carry out initiatives which promote these goals – through activities at our meetings and those conducted by our committees and sections, through interaction with the government and through the Board and executive.

But our Society's achievements are primarily those of the membership and not just through the formal structures of our committees. Our everyday actions guide the development of statistics in Canada and the success of the Society's mission. Of course, there are principles which guide an individual's actions and endeavours, and it's not likely that our Society's mission statement comes to mind when we act through our individual principled living. However, I expect it is true that some of our guiding principles embody the mission statement of this Society, and it's useful to recollect how important these are in providing leadership to the Canadian community. By recalling aspects of the mission statement in this column, I hope to bring a focus to what we are about and emphasize that this is also meant to be interpreted in everyday actions. In addition, there is also one specific facet of the statement which I would like to recall more carefully: that of training.

I have been extremely fortunate throughout my career to have had superb men-



Charmaine Dean

tors. While growing up in the Caribbean a family member dedicated part of his retirement to understanding the modern curriculum in the schools through close involvement in my learning experiences. I learned the advantages of good preparation, "just getting down to it" when faced with a difficult task, having an even pace, all interspersed with captivating stories of life as a child in the jungles of the Caribbean 70 years earlier and what it took to become an engineer out of that frame of existence. And in a very different setting, a retired colleague in our department with eyesight problems who is an amazing and colourful story-teller provides the same sort of leadership to our graduate students taking great interest in their research and day-to-day activities while making fun of his own challenges: "Of course, I don't mind being degenerate, it's the macular part which is annoying". All through my career, and particularly in graduate school, I have been fortunate in having excellent mentors, propelling me to aim for high standards in my own mentorship tasks.

Our Society encourages us to make excellence in mentorship a fundamental aspect of our principles: to help students take up the challenge and reach beyond what they think they can achieve, cultivating a deep interest in statistical science and its practice and the lifelong dialogue of a great program of research. Every member of our community is engaged in training

at some level and most of those who are more seriously involved in training are also those who are at the stage where they are expected to carry heavier burdens with regard to institutional leadership. It helps to recall every day a strong focus on the importance of the training role and on cultivating new and better leadership. As mentors, our actions and examples also go beyond the classroom or statistical research to showing how to contribute to the workplace environment, how to develop confidence and security and maintain noble aspirations and how to nourish our ideals through always acting with the highest integrity.

With accreditation there is the opportunity to broaden our training reach, and also to network with colleagues who are working toward the same mission but perhaps in isolation. Though we're all hard pressed to keep pace with the demands of our workload, I encourage everyone to extend a patient hand to a new member or colleague or in any aspect of the training role. Seeing first-hand in our department the results which can be achieved by our experienced members, I'd like to ask particularly our senior members to help bring this aspect of our mission statement to its highest fulfillment. It is my impression that statisticians already have some fame for excellence in graduate student training; let's build upon this tradition to all training interactions.

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Message from the Editor

Yogendra Chaubey
Concordia University

I apologize for the late delivery of the last issue which resulted from some unavoidable circumstances. However, I am very thankful to all members for their patience and understanding. I realize that the mailing of many previous issues has been delayed but I have tried to be as timely as possible and made an effort to post the issues on the web as soon as they are ready. I can foresee that the October issue will also have delayed mailing due to pressure on McGill University's printing office during this time; I hope you will all bear with me. Some highlights of this issue are presented below.

In the President's Message, Charmaine stresses one of the objectives of the SSC to be that of mentoring and training young statisticians. This is seen in the accreditation process as well as in different workshops organized by the SSC. Please take note of the accreditation deadline (February 1, 2007) in the Accreditation Committee report. I was also alerted to an article which includes two SSC members (Lehana Thabane and Charles Goldsmith) as the co-authors on mentoring young statisticians. I have included the abstract of this article along with a link to access the full article which may make interesting reading.

As we prepare for the SSC's next annual meeting to be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, the section on SSC 2007 gives preliminary information on local ar-

rangements and the scientific programme, thanks to Brajendra Sutradhar and John Braun. The details will be available in the February issue.

Among other regular columns including a call for nominations for various awards, announcements and news, this issue highlights the experiences of John Amrhein as a "Statistician Embedded in SAS" in the Consultants' Forum.

I have had a lot of support from the executives of the Society, members of the production team and many SSC members; I feel really blessed and thank them all. This is going to be the last issue under my editorship and I welcome the new editor, Ms. Frances van den Enden and hope that all of you will extend the same support and enthusiasm to her.



Yogendra Chaubey

REPORTS

Statistical Society of Ottawa

Tim Ramsay, University of Ottawa/Ottawa Health Research Institute
Past-President of the Statistical Society of Ottawa

On June 13, 2006, the Statistical Society of Ottawa (SSO) held its annual general meeting. Unlike previous meetings, which have traditionally begun with an invited speaker, this meeting was begun with a round-table discussion about the current and future role of the SSO in the statistical community of Ottawa. Those

present agreed that in order to attract a new generation of members, the SSO would be well-advised to consider offering new services. In particular, it was suggested that the SSO should explore ways in which to augment the social aspect of society membership. The new executive committee has pledged to explore ways

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The maximum number of words, in the original language, is: Mailbox: 375; Short article: 750; Feature article: 1750.

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to expand its activities in this direction. Elections were held and the new executive committee is as follows:

President: Ed Hughes
Vice-president: John Nash
President-elect: Kathryn Williams
Past-president: Tim Ramsay
Secretary: Cynthia Bocci
Treasurer: Joe Sun
Program coordinator: Raluca Balan

Over the past year, the SSO hosted three public events. On November 25, the Chapter co-sponsored a colloquium with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the University of Ottawa. Dr. J. Sunil Rao, from Case Western Reserve University, gave a talk entitled 'Spike and slab gene selection for multigroup microarray data.'

On November 28, 2005, there was a half-day seminar entitled 'Our Statistical Community' in which 12 speakers presented a five-minute description of an ongoing challenge. Each introductory description was followed by a round-table discussion involving all the attendees. Attendees left

with a new appreciation of the range of statistical work going on in the Ottawa statistical community; presenters left with a new perspective on their work and, at least in some cases, with constructive ideas for different ways to approach the problem.

On April 20, 2006, the Chapter held a one-day symposium entitled 'New Frontiers in Statistics.' The symposium featured six speakers presenting novel areas of statistical research, usually involving large, complex databases. The topics focused on new approaches to data analysis rather than incremental improvements of standard statistical models.

On May 2, 2006, the Executive Committee hosted a past presidents' luncheon that was attended by fourteen of the fifteen past presidents of the SSO. The discussion centered around the current and future role of the SSO and what types of activities might be planned to make the Chapter more attractive to a younger generation of statisticians. This discussion was continued at the annual general meeting.

SSC Participation at JSM 2007 in Salt Lake City

X. Joan Hu

SSC Representative to the Program Committee of JSM 2007

Plans are underway for the 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings, to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 29 – August 2. The theme of JSM 2007 is "Statistics: Harnessing the Power of Information".

As one of the sponsoring statistical societies, the SSC is allocated three invited sessions at the Meetings. In addition, we will have a discretionary session from the JSM 2007 program chair. The total of four slots will be filled with sessions selected from proposals submitted by SSC members earlier this year. David Dolson (Statistics Canada) is organizing a session titled "Measure of Overcoverage", concerning a new methodology for measurement of overcoverage implemented by Statistics Canada for the 2006 Census of Canada and to be implemented by the US

Bureau of Census for its 2010 Census. The session on "Capture-Recapture and Multi-List Studies", organized by Carl Schwarz (Simon Fraser University), will bring researchers from diverse fields together to share knowledge about common techniques. The third SSC invited session, organized by Alex Whitmore (McGill University), will consist of talks discussing the nature of stochastic processes, first hitting times, threshold regression, and operational time scales. Don Fraser is organizing a session on "The Bayesian Frequentist Interface: Is the Difference One of Methodology or of Other Information?"

The session on "Accreditation of Professional Statisticians", proposed by Judy-Anne Chapman, has been selected in the

REPORTS

program's competition of section sessions. It will be an invited session at JSM 2007 jointly sponsored by the ASA Section of Statistical Consulting and the SSC.

SSC members are encouraged to arrange Topic Contributed Paper Sessions and Topic

Contributed Panel Sessions, both of which bring together research and commentary on a common topic. Online registration for these sessions will take place between December 1, 2006 and February 1, 2007, with registration details to be provided at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2007. If you plan to organize one of these sessions,

please notify me as well, so that we can add SSC as a cosponsor.

Thanks for your support. I will keep you up-to-date on SSC involvement in JSM 2007.

Email: joanh@sfu.ca

Accreditation Committee

*Submitted by Carl Schwarz
Chair, Accreditation Committee*

Applying for Accreditation? Accreditation of Courses?

The next deadline for applying for either A.Stat. or P.Stat. is February 1, 2007. Application forms and details are available

at the Accreditation Website at: www.ssc.ca/accreditation/index_e.html

The Accreditation Committee is also accepting proposals for the accreditation of courses that can be used by A.Stat. applicants to fulfill the educational require-

ments for the entry designation. Once suites of courses have been approved, the application process for applicants for the A.Stat. designation will be greatly simplified. Details on the application process are available at the above website.

SSC 2007

The 35th SSC Annual Meeting: SSC 2007

*Brajendra Sutradhar
Memorial University of Newfoundland*

The 35th annual meeting of the SSC will be held at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's from Sunday June 10th to Wednesday June 13th, 2007.

Brajendra Sutradhar (Local Arrangements Chair) and John Braun (Program Chair) welcome you to attend this meeting to be held for the second time in Canada's most easterly province.

The latest information about the program can be obtained through the conference website: www.ssc.ca/2007/index_e.html.

Preliminary Information on Local Arrangements

The meeting will take place in the Inco Innovation Centre (IIC), which is an impressive-looking glass and steel edifice, located in the centre of the campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland



*Brajendra Sutradhar
Local Arrangements
Chair*

(MUN). This IIC facility is surrounded by the Arts and Administration, Science and the Queen Elizabeth II Library buildings. The on-site registration and some larger scientific sessions will take place in the IIC and the remaining scientific sessions will take place in the Arts and Administration Annex (AAA) and the Science building.

Arrangements for accommodations at conference rates have been made with Holiday Inn St. John's, Ramada St. John's, Super 8 Motel and the MUN residence. Details about the rates and booking information will appear soon on the website www.ssc.ca and in the next issue of SSC Liaison.

The local organizing committee is also arranging some special events. Scadernia Adventure Tours will provide various half and full day land and/or boat tours on Sunday, June 10 at special rates for conference delegates and their guests. They will also provide shorter land and/or boat tours on other days from June 11 to June 13, at special rates. Details about these adventure tours to have a close encounter with icebergs and/or whales, along with booking information at special rates, will be available soon on the SSC website www.ssc.ca and also in the next issue of **SSC Liaison**.

See you at Memorial next June.

Preliminary Information on Scientific Programme

John Braun
University of Western Ontario

Call for Contributed Papers

The Program Committee is calling for contributed 15-minute talks or poster presentations, either in statistics or in probability. To be considered, submissions must be made through the conference website on or before Friday, February 9, 2007. The website is not yet open to receive submissions; please consult the conference website later in fall to see when it will be open to submissions.

Submissions must include the paper's title, the authors' names and affiliations, and an abstract in English or French of 100 words or less. The speaker and the preferred format (talk or poster) should also be identified. Tentative scheduling will be issued by March.

Scientific Program

Three workshops and some 37 invited paper sessions are planned for the conference; these are listed below with titles and organizers where those are available. Please note that invited speakers must pay registration fees and submit their abstract electronically in the same manner as all other participants.

Workshops

1. Biostatistics Section: Additive Models, Simon Wood, University of Bath.
2. Business and Industrial Statistics Section: Advanced R Programming, Duncan Murdoch, University of Western Ontario.
3. Survey Methods Section: to be determined.

Plenary Sessions

- Gold Medal Address - Chris Field, Dalhousie University
- SSC Presidential Invited Address - TBA

Statutory Invited Paper Sessions

- Pierre Robillard Award Address
- CRM / SSC Prize in Statistics Address



John Braun
Programme Chair

- Canadian Journal of Statistics Award Address

Invited Paper Sessions Organized by SSC sections and committees (and organizers)

- **Isobel Loutit Invited Address** - Bovas Abraham, University of Waterloo (Business and Industrial Statistics Section, Gemai Chen, University of Calgary)
- **Special Invited Session of the Survey Methods Section** - TBA, (Milorad Kovacevic, Statistics Canada)
- **Special Invited Session of the Probability Section** - Robert Elliot, University of Calgary. (Murray Burke, University of Calgary)
- **Session sponsored by the Canadian Caucus for Women in Statistics and by the Committee on Women in Statistics: Title to be determined** (Tulay Koru-Sengul, McMaster)
- **Design and Analysis of Experiments for Complex Physical Systems** (Business and Industrial Statistics Section, Derek Bingham, Simon Fraser University)
- **Reliability Models and Their Applications** (Business and Industrial Statistics Section, Thierry Duchesne, Laval University)
- **Statistical Graphics and Image Analysis** (Business and Industrial Statistics Section, Peihua Qui, University of Minnesota)

- **Diagnostics for the Retrospective Problem in Sequential Population Analysis of Exploited Fish Stocks** (Biostatistics Section, Noel Cadigan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
- **Genetic Epidemiology** (Biostatistics Section, Karen Kopciuk, University of Calgary)
- **Mathematical Methods for Studying Patient Wait Times** (Biostatistics Section, Wendy Lou, University of Toronto)
- **Statistical Methods for Causal Inference** (Biostatistics Section, Robert Platt, McGill University)
- **Latest Developments in Small Area Estimation, Theory and Practice** (Survey Methods Section, S. Rubin-Bleuer, Statistics Canada)
- **Remedies for Sample Survey Outliers** (Survey Methods Section, Mike Hidioglu, Statistics Canada)
- **Directions in Household Surveys Development** (Survey Methods Section, Edward Chen, Statistics Canada)
- **Random Walks and Related Stochastic Processes** (Probability Section, Martin Barlow, University of British Columbia)
- **Mathematical Finance and Stochastic Analysis** (Probability Section, Robert Elliot, University of Calgary)
- **Stochastic Partial Differential Equations and their Applications** (Probability Section, Hao Yu, University of Western Ontario & Shui Feng, McMaster)

Invited Sessions Suggested by SSC Members (and organizers)

- **Applications of Empirical Likelihood in Survey Sampling** (Jiahua Chen, University of Waterloo)
- **Data with Extra Zeros Applied in Ecology** (Joanna Mills Flemming, Dalhousie University)
- **Robust Statistics** (Matias Salibian-Barra, University of British Columbia)
- **Point Processes** (Rolf Turner, University of New Brunswick)
- **Matrices and Statistics** (George Styan, McGill University)

SSC 2007

- **Confidence Intervals and Regions** (Eric Marchand, University of Sherbrooke)
- **Generalized Quasilikelihood Inference** (Pat Farrell, Carleton University)
- **Recent Developments in Multivariate Survival Data Analysis Methodology** (Wenqing He, University of Western Ontario)
- **Markov Chain Monte Carlo and Quasi Monte Carlo - A Productive Marriage** (Radu Craiu, University of Toronto)
- **Statistical Applications in Hydrology and Climatology** (Anne-Catherine Favre, University of Quebec)
- **Forestry** (Reg Kulperger & Dave Stanford, University of Western Ontario)
- **Statistical Genetics** (Paul Peng, Memorial University)

Invited Sessions Organized by the National Program on Complex Data Structures

There will be three sessions organized under this umbrella. Two of the sessions will be invited paper sessions, and the third will be a special invited poster session which will also entail a roundtable discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SSC Liaison Gets New Editor

*Yogendra P. Chaubey
Concordia University*

The SSC is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. **Frances van den Enden** as the new editor of **SSC Liaison** to start her duties from January 2007. Frances has over 20 years of experience as a Survey Consultant. She works for Statistics Canada and is presently seconded to RCMP where she is Acting Director, RCMP

Survey Centre. The past SSC Public Relations Officer, Jock McKay did all the hard work in the difficult search process which has been recently concluded by Angelo Canty, the present SSC Public Relations Officer. She can be reached through her E-mail: frances.vandenenden@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.



Frances van den Enden

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Roman Viveros
Andrei Volodin
Xikui Wang
Patricia Whitridge (Chair)
Professional Development Cmtee Rep

Committee on Women in Statistics

Laura Cowen
Sylvia Esterby
Julie Horrocks
Tulay Koru-Sengul (Caucus)
Rhonda Rosychuk (Chair)
Susana Rubin-Bleuer
Ying Zhang

Australia-Canada Scholar Committee *ad hoc*

Charmaine Dean
Andrey Feuerverger
Chris Field
James Ramsay (Chair)

Committee on New SSC Awards *ad hoc*

Angelo Canty
François Pageau
John Petkau (Chair)

2006-2007 Awards Committee: Call for Nominations

The Awards Committee invites nominations for the following awards:

The SSC Gold Medal
SSC Honorary Membership
The SSC Distinguished Service Award

The **Gold Medal** is awarded to a Canadian, or someone working in Canada, who

is a member of the SSC and has made substantial contributions to statistics or probability theory, either to mathematical developments or in applied work. The Gold Medal is intended to honour current leaders in their field. Nominations, to be received by January 31, 2007, should consist of at least four letters of support, a recent curriculum vitae, and a sug-

gested citation to accompany the award. A completed nomination is effective for three competitions and may be updated annually.

Honorary Membership in the SSC may be awarded to statistical scientists, or in special circumstances to other individuals, of outstanding distinction who have

ANNOUNCEMENTS

made exceptional contributions to the development of the statistical sciences. The recipient should be someone whose work for which the Honorary Membership is awarded was substantially done in Canada or has had a major impact in Canada, and need not be a member of the SSC. Nominations, to be received by January 31, 2007, should consist of at least one letter of support, a recent curriculum vitae, and a suggested citation to accompany the award.

The Distinguished Service Award is intended to recognize substantial contributions to the operation or welfare of the SSC over a period of several years. Nominations, to be received by Janu-

ary 31, 2007, should consist of at least three letters of support (of which the nominator's letter may be one), a recent curriculum vitae, and a suggested citation to accompany the award.

The awards committee also has the mandate to make recommendations for awards offered by other societies or bodies, such as the COPSS Presidents' Award. The COPSS (Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies) Presidents' Award is designed to honour distinguished statisticians who are 40 years of age or younger. Please see the recently amended criterion at www.niss.org/copss, and forward suggestions for nominees to the chair of the awards committee.

A list of previous winners of the SSC Awards can be found on the SSC Website; www.ssc.ca.

Please send your nominations for any of these awards before **January 31, 2007**, to the Chair of the Awards Committee:

Professor Nancy Reid, Chair
SSC Awards Committee
Department of Statistics
University of Toronto
100 St. George St.
Toronto, ON
Canada M5S 3G3

E-mail: reid@utstat.utoronto.ca

Pierre Robillard Award Call for Nominations

The aim of the Pierre Robillard Award is to recognize the best Ph.D. thesis defended at a Canadian university in 2006 and written in the fields covered by *The Canadian Journal of Statistics*. Submitted theses will be evaluated by a committee whose members are appointed by the President of the Statistical Society of Canada; their decision will be final. Judging will take into account the originality of the ideas and techniques, the possible applications and their treatment, and the potential impact on the statistical sciences. The committee may arrive at the conclusion that none of the submitted theses merits the award.

The award consists of a certificate, a monetary prize, and a one year membership in the Statistical Society of Canada. The winner will be invited to give a talk based on the thesis at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Society; assistance with expenses to attend the meeting may be provided. The winner will also be invited to submit a paper to *The Canadian Journal of Statistics*. If accepted, the paper will be identified as being based on the thesis which won the 2006 Pierre Robillard Award; the names of the university and the thesis supervisor will be clearly indicated. The thesis super-

visor could be co-author of the paper. The members of the Pierre Robillard Award Committee for 2006-2007 are

Patrick Farrell (Carleton University)
Sudhir Paul (University of Windsor)
Robert Platt (McGill University)
Jean-François Quessy (Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières)
Ed Susko, Chair (Dalhousie University)

The Pierre Robillard Award Committee Chair must receive the thesis and a nominating letter from the thesis supervisor by **February 15, 2007**. It is imperative that the supervisor address the three criteria below in their letter:

1. The originality of the ideas and techniques.
2. Possible applications and their treatment.
3. Potential impact on the statistical sciences

In so doing, the supervisor may include excerpts of letters from external examiners. Complete letters from external examiners or referees will not be accepted. Official confirmation that the thesis has been defended in 2006 must also be provided.

Electronic submission is strongly encouraged.

Submission Instructions

For electronic submission, the thesis should be in Postscript, Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), or Microsoft Word format. The thesis and covering letter can be e-mailed to the committee chair. Alternately, the covering letter can give a web site from which an electronic copy of the thesis can be downloaded.

If the thesis has to be submitted in another electronic format or on paper, the Pierre Robillard Award Committee Chair must be contacted before submission. Entries should include e-mail addresses and phone numbers of both the supervisor and the student, and be sent to:

Dr. Edward Susko
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS, B3H 3J5
Tel: (902) 494-8865
Fax: (902) 494-5130
Email: susko@mathstat.dal.ca

CRM-SSC Prize in Statistics: Call for Nominations

The Centre de recherches mathématiques (CRM) and the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) solicit nominations for the CRM-SSC Prize, which is awarded in recognition of a statistical scientist's professional accomplishments in research during the first fifteen years after earning a doctorate.

The award, which includes a \$3,000 cash prize, is bestowed at most once a year upon a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada whose research was carried out primarily in Canada. Recipients of the award, since its creation in 1999, have been Christian Genest (Laval), Robert J. Tibshirani (Stanford), Colleen D. Cutler (Waterloo), Larry A. Wasserman (Carnegie Mellon), Charmaine B. Dean

(Simon Fraser), Randy R. Sitter (Simon Fraser), Jiahua Chen (Waterloo) and Jeffrey Rosenthal (Toronto).

In 2007, eligibility will be limited to candidates who received their Ph.D. (or an equivalent degree) in the year 1992 or subsequently. Current membership in the SSC is not a prerequisite.

The nominations will be examined by an Advisory Committee consisting of three SSC representatives and two representatives (including the Chair) appointed by the CRM. The identity of the recipient, if any, will be unveiled at the 35th SSC Annual Meeting, to be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, June 10-13, 2007.

Nominations, including three letters of support and an up-to-date curriculum vitae (with a list of publications) should be submitted to the CRM before February 1, 2007. As files are not carried over from one year to the next, nominations must be renewed each year.

Submit files to:

Directeur

Centre de recherches mathématiques
Université de Montréal

C.P. 6128, Succursale Centre-ville
Montréal (Québec) Canada H3C 3J7

VOX: (514) 343-7501

FAX: (514) 343-2254

Email: directeur@CRM.UMontreal.ca

2007 Election

In the next issue of **SSC Liaison**, the Election Committee will present a slate of candidates for the following positions:

Members of the Executive Committee

- President-Elect
- Treasurer (two-year term)

Regional Representatives on the Board of Directors (two-year terms)

- One regional representative from the Atlantic Provinces
- Two regional representatives from Quebec
- Two regional representatives from Ontario
- One regional representative from Manitoba/Saskatchewan/North-West Territories/Nunavut
- One regional representative from Alberta/British Columbia/Yukon

Section Officers

Biostatistics Section

- President-Elect

- Secretary (three-year term)
- Treasurer (two-year term)

Probability Section

- President
- President-Elect
- Secretary (three-year term)

Business and Industrial Statistics Section

- President-Elect
- Secretary (three-year term)

Survey Methods Section

- President-Elect
- Secretary (two-year term)

Successful candidates will take office on July 1, 2007. A President-Elect serves for one year, then becomes President for one year, and then becomes Past-President for one year. For the Probability Section, the President serves for one year, then becomes Past-President for one year.

The Election Committee for 2006-2007 is:

David Binder (Chair) – dbinder49@hotmail.com

Michael Escobar – m.escobar@utoronto.ca

Nancy Heckman – nancy@stat.ubc.ca

François Pageau – pageauf@sncfec.com

Rhonda Rosychuk – rhonda.rosychuk@ualberta.ca

Wei Sun – wsun@mathstat.concordia.ca

Patricia Whitridge – whitridge.patricia@sympatico.ca

You may communicate your suggestions to any member of the election committee before November 30, 2006. Nominating petitions may be sent before January 15, 2007 to the chair of the committee:

David A. Binder

49 Bertona Street

Nepean, ON K2G 4G7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fields Institute Summer Workshop on Environmetrics

Roman Viveiros
McMaster University

University of Waterloo July 2007

Featuring experienced researchers and environmental scientists from existing environmental programs, the workshop will shed light on the key role of sound statistical methodology in environmental

protection. The primary intended outcome is to raise awareness and interest among environmental scientists and statisticians, particularly those from continental North America, to join forces and integrate their expertise. Details of the workshop are posted at www.fields.utoronto.ca/programs/scientific/07-08/environmetrics/,

the site is regularly updated. An expanded announcement will appear in the February 2007 issue of *Liaison*. For information, contact the Chair of the Organizing Committee: Dr. Grace Chiu, University of Waterloo, gchiu@uwaterloo.ca.

International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics

Bovas Abraham
University of Waterloo

August 18-20, 2007 The Azores Archipelago, Portugal

ISBIS-2007 is a symposium sponsored by the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS), an official section of the International Statistical Institute. It is intended to provide a forum for presenting and exchanging ideas in statistical methods applicable to business, finance, and industry and as a conduit for international collaboration in research and other technology-transfer activities. The symposium will serve as one of the

satellite meetings scheduled just before the biennial meeting of the ISI in Lisbon. The presentations at ISBIS-2007 may range in orientation from very applied to cutting-edge theoretical, provided the work is pertinent to statistics in business, finance or industry. Papers are encouraged on topics such as business and quality management, computer experiments, data mining, design of experiments, financial engineering, forecasting, machine learning, marketing, network analysis, process control, quality in health care, reliability, risk analysis, six sigma applications, warranty modeling and related areas. Additional information on ISBIS-2007

will be posted, in due course, at www.isbis2007.uac.pt. If you are interested in participating in this symposium by either contributing a talk or organizing a session, please contact Francisco Samaniego, Program Chair (fjsamaniego@ucdavis.edu) or Bovas Abraham, ISBIS President (babraham@uwaterloo.ca).

An International Conference on Applied Statistics for the Development of Africa

Nadia Ghazzali
Laval University

We are pleased to inform you that an international conference on applied statistics for the development of Africa will take place in Cotonou (Bénin). Under the aegis of the Réseau Africain de Mathématiques Appliquées pour le Développement (RAMAD, www.ramad.org), this conference is organized by Université Abomey-Calavi (Bénin), Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour and the CNRS (France), and will take place from February 26 to March 2, 2007, under the patronage of Ministry of Development of Economics

and Finance of Bénin and Ministry of Superior Education of Bénin.

This conference will be a forum for exchange on all aspects of statistics, both practical and theoretical, in relation to development in Africa. It will gather practitioners, academicians, statisticians in stochastic modelization, consultants and other professionals from the industry who are interested in the issue of development in Africa.

The scientific program of the conference will present invited talks on general scope subjects, work groups, contributed papers and posters. The objective of the conference is to promote research and applications of statistics and stochastic modelization in African developing countries, and allowing statisticians from Africa and elsewhere to share technical information. Organizers expect that such exchange will contribute to a more efficient use of statistical methods in the African context.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Statistics and stochastic modelization specialists are especially invited to contribute to the scientific program. The following types of contributions are welcome:

- Invited lectures
- Free proposals (contributed talks, papers or posters)
- Tutorial organization

- Conference promotion
- Incentive for the participation of students and researchers
- Proposal for support and sponsoring by organizations, scientific or academic institutions, and universities

Deadline for submission of proposals is **October 15, 2006**. For more detailed

information concerning this conference, please visit the conference website at: lma.univ-pau.fr/meet/sada2007.

Mentoring Young Statisticians

Mentoring of young statisticians is of growing concern to the SSC. In a recent article, two SSC members along with a research associate "share their experiences and offer suggestions" that statisticians can use in their mentoring relations. The paper is based on an invited presentation at the Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians, Cape Town, South Africa, 2005-09-05/10 and published in *The African Statistical Journal*, Volume 2, May 2006. The authors strongly feel that the message of the article needs to reach a wide audience of statisticians. The abstract of the paper is reproduced below. The full paper may be downloaded from the journal's website through the following link, www.afdb.org/pls/portal/docs/page/adb_admin_pg/documents/statistics/afdb_statistical_journal.pdf or may be obtained from Dr. Lehana Thabane, E-mail: thabnl@mcmaster.ca

Mentoring Young Statisticians: Facilitating the Acquisition of Important Career Skills

Dr. Lehana Thabane¹, Ms. Marroon Thabane² and Dr. Charles Harry Goldsmith³

1: Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, McMaster University and Centre for Evaluation of Medicines, St Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton, Canada. thabnl@mcmaster.ca

2: Research Associate, Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, McMaster University, Canada

3: Emeritus Professor, Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, McMaster University and Centre for Evaluation of Medicines, St Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton, Canada

Summary

Statistics plays a very important role in science and research. The future of statistics as a field depends heavily on the training and mentoring of young

statisticians by mature, experienced statisticians. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the role of mentoring in the development of future statisticians. We describe the importance of mentoring young statisticians and strategies that young statisticians can use to select a mentor. Mentoring of young statisticians is a model that can facilitate knowledge transfer and experience sharing for the betterment of statistics and human development. We offer suggestions for ways in which the mentor can help their mentee acquire important career skills including suggestions for other things that young statisticians can do on their own to enhance career development. We share our experiences on mentoring and offer suggestions that people can use in their mentoring relationships.

Sequential Analysis Journal Announces the Abraham Wald Prize for the Best Article

Nitis Mukhopadhyay
University of Connecticut-Storrs, USA

The editor of *Sequential Analysis* has announced the winners of the 2006 Abraham Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis for the best article that appeared in the journal last year. The winners are Joe Glaz and Vladimir Pozdnyakov of the University of Connecticut-Storrs for their article, A Repeated Significance Test for Distributions with Heavy Tails, in *Sequential Analysis* 2005, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 77-98. The winning article can be viewed online

free of charge at journalsonline.tandf.co.uk/link.asp?id=eb3373b39b95

Glaz's research areas include applied probability, probability inequalities, scan statistics, sequential analysis, and simultaneous inference. He is the founding editor-in-chief for the journal *Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability*. Glaz is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association and an Ordinary

Member of the International Statistical Institute (stat.uconn.edu/~joe). Pozdnyakov's research areas include limit theorems, mathematical finance, occurrence of patterns, and sequential analysis (stat.uconn.edu/~boba).

The award was presented on Tuesday, August 8, in a special ceremony held at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, Washington where Glaz accepted the

ANNOUNCEMENTS

award (Pozdnyakov in absentia). Glaz said, "Vladimir and I feel deeply honored to accept this prestigious award named after Abraham Wald. Thanks." He also added, "Sequential analysis as a field and Sequential Analysis as a journal belong to main-stream statistics. Thanks for the vision and leadership of the journal's editor, Nitis Mukhopadhyay, for the recent major upsurge in methodological research in sequential analysis. The **Sequential Analysis** journal is on the map for its depth and breadth."

Sequential Analysis is a refereed interdisciplinary journal committed to contributing to both theoretical and applied aspects of sequential methodologies in all areas of statistical science. Published papers highlight the development of new and important sequential approaches in fields as diverse as agriculture, clinical trials, communication science, computer simulations, disease mapping, engineer-



Nitis Mukhopadhyay (on left) and Joe Glaz

ing, environmental sampling, genetics, health sciences, multiple comparisons, network intrusions, parallel processing, pest management, process control, sonar detection, and surveillance, among

other areas. The journal can be viewed online at www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/07474946.asp.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

2006

December

December 4–8, 62nd Annual Deming Conference on Applied Statistics, Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA. The purpose of this three-day conference on Applied Statistics is to provide a learning experience for statisticians. The conference is composed of twelve three-hour tutorials on current statistical topics of interest. Most tutorials are based on recently published books by recognized experts in the field. See the conference website www.demingconference.com/deming2006 for full programme of the conference.

December 18–20, The Book Of Ester Samuel-Cahn: From Empirical Bayes To Prophet Inequalities, Near Jerusalem, Israel. This is a conference in honour of Professor Ester Samuel-Cahn, who recently retired from the Hebrew University. Its general theme will be statistics and its applications. Ester's lifelong commitment and contributions to the profession and science of statistics, her endless fostering of young statisticians and her impressive

record of teaching statistical theory are highly respected by her many colleagues and her countless former students. For more info, see the website: www.Ester-Conference.huji.ac.il

December 29–31, Sixth International Triennial Calcutta Symposium. Kolkata 700019, India. Calcutta Statistical Association jointly with the Department of Statistics, Calcutta University is organizing the Sixth International Triennial Calcutta Symposium on Probability and Statistics during December 29–31, 2006. On the occasion of the 100th birthday of late-Professor S.N.Roy, there will be a special session on December 29, 2006. Intending participants are requested to contact the Convener of the organizing committee for further details: Dr. Asis Kumar Chattopadhyay, Department of Statistics, Calcutta University, 35 Ballygunge Circular Road Kolkata 700019, India. E-mail: akcstat@caluniv.ac.in or asis_stat@yahoo.com or sixtricalsy@yahoo.com.

2007

January

January 2–6, Joint Statistical Meeting and International Conference on Statistics, Probability and Related Areas, Cochin, India. The International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) in collaboration with other statistical organizations in India, will hold its Biennial Joint Statistical Meeting during January 2–5, 2007, followed by a Workshop in Financial Mathematics on January 6, 2007. The conference will be organized by Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin, India. The venue for the International Conference on Statistics, Probability and Related Areas is Hotel Renaissance in Cochin, a beautiful coastal town in Southern India. The sessions will cover a wide range of topics and the International Advisory Committee consists of Professors James Berger, Peter Bickel, Kjell Doksum, Peter Hall, and C.R. Rao. More details can be found from the document at www.stat.ohio-state.edu/~hnn/IISACConf2007.pdf.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

January 16–18, The 6th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Statistics, Mathematics and Related Fields, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. The main goal of this conference is to provide an opportunity for academicians and professionals from various statistics and/or mathematics related fields from all over the world to come together and learn from each other. For further information, please see the conference website: www.hicstatistics.org.

January 23–25, The fourth meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the International Biometric Society (EMR-IBS), Eilat, Israel. The conference will include three full days of sessions. The first of these three days will be a special one-day symposium in honor of Marvin Zelen on the occasion of his 80th birthday. This special symposium is under the joint auspices of EMR-IBS and the Harvard School of Public Health, and is being organized jointly by Marvin's former doctoral student Ori Davidov, now at Haifa University, and Stephen Lagakos of the Harvard Department of Biostatistics. A slate of distinguished invited speakers has been lined up for the conference, and we look forward to a very stimulating meeting. We welcome abstracts in all areas of biometrics. For details please browse the conference website: www.congress.co.il/emr-ibs2007.

February

February 7–8, Quantitative Methods in Defense and National Security 2007, Fairfax, Virginia, USA. This is a call for papers and participation in the 2nd annual Quantitative Methods in Defense and National Security conference (QMDNS-07) to be held at George Mason University, Fairfax Campus, Virginia. The goal of the conference is to promote collaboration between those with quantitative national security problems (e.g., defense and homeland security practitioners) and those who solve quantitative problems (e.g., statisticians, mathematicians, operations researchers, engineers, and others). The program will consist of invited sessions, contributed papers, and contributed posters. Contributed papers and posters will be refereed. Please go

to the conference website (www.galaxy.gmu.edu/QMDNS2007/) for information on abstract submission and other details. The last day to submit papers for the contributed program is November 15, 2006. Please contact Jeffrey Solka (jef-frey.solka@navy.mil) with questions. For more info please see the website www.galaxy.gmu.edu/QMDNS2007/.

March

March 27–30, Statistik unter einem Dach / Statistics under one roof, Bielefeld, Germany. First joint conference of German Statisticians organized by DAGStat-Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Statistik/German Statistical Working Group. Confirmed invited speakers are: Raymond J. Carroll, Lon Cardon, Ralf Korn, Helmut Lütkepohl, Johann Pfanzagl. For further information, please see the conference website: www.statistik2007.de.

April

April 11–13, Joint ENBIS-DEINDE 2007 Conference, Torino, Italy. This conference is to join common areas of interest of DEINDE (DEsign of INDustrial Experiments) and ENBIS (European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics) organizations. The conference intends to bring together both leading experts and researchers, thus creating a forum to cover recent progress and to stimulate exchange among active researchers. It will also encourage informal contacts and discussion among participants. For more please see the conference website: web.econ.unito.it/deinde07.

May

May 17–19, United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS 07). The second biennial United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS 07) will be held 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. For more information, contact Dr. Deb Rumsey,

USCOTS 07 Program Chair: rumsey@stat.ohio-state.edu or visit the conference website causeweb.org/uscots.

May 23–26, 2007 Symposium on the Interface: Computing Science and Statistics, Philadelphia, PA, USA. The general theme of Interface 2007 will be Systems Biology. The conference is being hosted jointly by the Center for Statistical and Information Science (Alan J. Izenman, Director) and by the Center for Information Science and Technology (Zoran Obradovic, Director) at Temple University. Submissions are welcome. For more information, please contact Alan J. Izenman, Department of Statistics, Speakman Hall, 1810 North 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122-6083, (215) 204-8166, alan@temple.edu.

June

June 1–3, 16th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS-2007), Windsor, Ontario. Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Windsor. For more information: www.uwindsor.ca/IWMS, iwms@windsor.ca, tel. (519) 253-3000 ext. 3015, fax: (519) 971-3649.

June 3–6, ICSA 2007 Applied Statistics Symposium, Raleigh, NC, USA. The 16th Annual ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium, organized by the International Chinese Statistical Statistician will be held at Research Triangle Area in North Carolina. Short courses will be on June 3 and technical sessions on June 4 to June 6 with keynote speeches from Dr. Janet Woodcock (FDA Deputy Commissioner) and Professor LJ Wei (Harvard University). The Symposium invites talks on all aspects of statistics. Please submit contributed paper abstracts via e-mail to: Cory Hughes at chughes@bios.unc.edu. The symposium also sponsors student awards and travel grants. For more information, please contact Shuyen Ho at shu-yen.ho@gsk.com.

June 3–7 Quality and Productivity Research Conference, Santa Fe, USA. The Quality and Productivity Research Conference is held annually to showcase

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

new advances in industrial applications of statistics and quality engineering. In 2007 it will be held at the Santa Fe Hilton, in scenic New Mexico. More details about the program will be available soon.

June 10–13, SSC-2007, Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada, St. Johns, Newfoundland. Memorial University of Newfoundland will be hosting the 35th annual meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada. Details can be found on the website www.ssc.ca as they become available. For more information on the programme contact John Braun at braun@stats.uwo.ca and for information on local arrangements contact Brajendra Sutradhar bsutradh@math.mun.ca. Tel: (709) 737-8731 Fax: (709) 737-3010.

June 12–14, Conference on Ordered Statistical Data and Inequalities: Theory & Applications, Amman, Jordan. The conference on Ordered Statistical Data is an international annual conference. It aims at creating a stimulating atmosphere for researchers in the area by fostering research, discussion, and exchange of ideas on statistical work on ordered data. The conference was held in Warsaw (2002–2004), Turkey (2005), and Iran (2006). For more info visit the website www.ju.edu.jo/osdi, www.stat.ohio-state.edu/~hnn.

June 18–21, International Conference on Establishment Surveys III, Montreal, Quebec. The Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III) will be held at the Hyatt Regency Montréal, Quebec, Canada, from June 18 to 21, 2007. ICES-I in 1993 convened more than 400 experts in the area of surveys of businesses, farms, and institutions. It set the stage by formally documenting the state of the art in 1993. In 2000, ICES-II took a forward look at methods for surveying businesses, farms, and institutions. ICES-III will explore the current state of the art. There will be a selection of proposals for invited paper sessions. In addition, the conference will include a keynote speaker on Monday, June 18, contributed papers, poster sessions, three short courses, software demonstrations, and a closing program on Thursday, June 21. For more information please send an

e-mail message to ices3@census.gov or visit the website www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/index.cfm.

June 24–27, 27th Annual International Symposium on Forecasting, New York City, NY, USA. The theme of ISF2007 is financial forecasting in a global economy. The objectives are to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge of new developments in forecasting techniques and evaluation, and to promote discussion of ideas on forecasting among academicians and practitioners from a diverse range of fields, including Econometrics, Statistics, Finance, Climate and Environment, Public Policy, Information Systems, Psychology, Demography, Energy, and Business. In addition, the conference will include a number of keynote and featured speakers. Deadline for electronic submission of abstracts is March 2, 2007. For more information, visit www.forecasters.org/isf, or contact General Chair - Kajal Lahiri (klahiri@albany.edu ; 518.442.4758), or Program Chair - Terry Kinal (twk58@albany.edu; 518.442.4744), Department of Economics, University at Albany - SUNY, Albany, NY 12222.

July

July 9–11, 5th International Conference on Multiple Comparison Procedures, Vienna, Austria. The conference intends to bring statisticians from academy, industry and regulatory agencies together to present new research findings in multiple testing. For further details see the conference website: www.mcp-conference.org.

July 12–14, Sixth International Conference on Lattice Path Combinatorics and Applications, Johnson City, Tennessee, USA. This conference will follow in the tradition of earlier conferences at Hamilton (Canada), New Delhi (India), Vienna (Austria), and Athens (Greece). Invited tutorial talks will be given by G. Andrews, A. Kemp, I. Gessel, and W. Bohm. For more information see the conference website: www.etsu.edu/math/godbole/lattice/index.htm.

July 27–29, 4th Joint Meeting of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics and The British

Society for the History of Mathematics. Concordia University, Montreal. pallaire@qcc.cuny.edu, bradley@adelphi.edu, c.j.earle@exeter.ac.uk.

July 29–August 2, 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings, Salt Lake City, Utah. For detailed information, contact jsm@amstat.org or phone toll-free (800) 308-8943 or follow the link for 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings from the URL www.amstat.org/meetings/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.

August

August 2–4, 13th ISSAT International Conference on Reliability & Quality in Design, Seattle, Washington, USA. ISSAT Annual International Conference on Reliability & Quality in Design is calling for papers on topics: Reliability, Statistical Approaches in Reliability, Software Algorithms, Quality Engineerings, and more. Papers should be submitted by February 15, 2007 to the Program Chair: Prof. Toshio Nakagawa, Dept. of Marketing and Information Systems, Aichi Institute of Technology, 1247 Yachigusa, Yagusa-cho, Toyota-shi, 470-0392, Japan. For other details please see the conference website: www.issatconferences.org.

August 22–29, International Statistical Institute 56th Biennial Session, Lisboa Portugal. International Statistical Institute, 56th Biennial Session: includes meetings of the Bernoulli Society, the International Association for Statistical Computing, the International Association of Survey Statisticians, the International Association for Official Statistics and the International Association for Statistical Education, to be held in Lisboa, Portugal. For more information, please visit the website www.cbs.nl/isi/.

September

September 3–5, ISI 56th Session Satellite Meeting on Small Area Estimation, Pisa, Italy. This conference follows SAE2005 (Jyväskylä, Finland) and it is organised by the IASS in co-operation with the University of Pisa, University of Florence, University of Trieste, University of Cassino, ISTAT and the Italian Statisti-

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

cal Society. The scientific programme is characterized by having special invited sessions as well as contributed papers and posters covering topics on (i) theoretical and methodological developments in small area estimation and related fields, and in (ii) practical applications of small area estimation methods, including their potential uses in various research areas. For more information, please visit the website www.dipstat.ec.unipi.it/SAE2007.

October

October 31–November 3, Design and Analysis of Experiments (DAE2007)

Memphis, Tennessee, USA. Department of Mathematical Sciences, The University of Memphis will be hosting the DAE2007 meeting during October 31, 2007 to November 3, 2007. It will be the fifth conference in the DAE conference series. As in earlier DAE conferences the principal aims of DAE2007 meeting will be to provide support and encouragement to junior researchers in the field of design and analysis of experiments and to stimulate interest in topics of practical relevance to science and industry. There are also opportunities for junior researchers to be paired with a senior mentor close to their areas of interest in the conference. DAE2007 is being sponsored by

Department of Mathematical Sciences, The University of Memphis and is being held at Holiday Inn (University Campus) in Memphis. The conference website is: www.msci.memphis.edu/DAE2007.

2008

January 7–9, Living to 100: Survival to Advanced Ages, Orlando, Florida, USA.

The Society of Actuaries Committee on Living to 100 Research Symposia is now organizing its third triennial international symposium on high age mortality and related issues to be held in January, 2008 in Orlando, Florida. Ages of interest are ages 60 and over with special emphasis on ages 85 and over. Key objectives of the symposium include facilitating a significant improvement in the quality of population data at advanced ages, describing enhanced mortality rate and population projections, and discussing the implications of an aging population for social, financial, health care and retirement systems. Click on the link provided for more details on the Call for Paper. www.soa.org/ccm/content/areas-of-practice/life-insurance/research/living-to-100-survival.

May 25–30, SSC-2008, Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada, Ottawa Congress Center, Ottawa, Ontario.

Pierre Lavallée [e-mail: Pierre.Lavallee@statcan.ca] is the local arrangements coordinator for this meeting. One goal for the program is to have some overlap with the joint meeting of the Canadian Math Society and the corresponding French society.

August 3–7, 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings, Denver, Colorado, USA.

JSM (the Joint Statistical Meetings) is the largest gathering of statisticians held in North America. It is held jointly with the American Statistical Association, the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the Statistical Society of Canada. Attended by over 5500 people, activities of the meeting include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, continuing education courses, exhibit hall (with state-of-the-art statistical products and opportunities), placement service, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities, and networking opportunities. Denver is the host city for JSM 2008 and offers a wide range of possibilities for sharing time with friends and colleagues. For information, contact jsm@amstat.org or phone toll-free (800) 308-8943 or visit the website: www.amstat.org/meetings/.

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF STATISTICS

CJS: Coming Attractions

Douglas P. Wiens
Editor, CJS

The December 2006 issue of the *Journal* opens with 'Strictly monotone and smooth nonparametric regression for two or more variables', by Holger Dette and Regine Scheder (both Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany). Here, a monotone nonparametric estimate for a multiple regression function is proposed. The method starts with an unconstrained nonparametric regression estimate and makes successive refinements through one-dimensional isotonization procedures. Asymptotic properties are derived, and the methods are illustrated on two datasets.



Doug Wiens

Following this, Damião N. da Silva (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil) and Jean Opsomer (Iowa State U.), in 'A kernel smoothing method of adjusting for unit nonresponse in sample surveys', propose a weighting adjustment for nonresponse based on estimating the response probabilities by kernel regression. A replication-based estimation method for the variance of the estimator is proposed, and illustrated by simulation.

Reinaldo B. Arellano-Valle (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), Márcia

CJS: COMING ATTRACTIONS

D. Branco (Universidade São Paulo, Brazil) & Marc G. Genton (Texas A&M U.) propose a new definition of 'selection distribution', and as a consequence unify many existing definitions in the literature of multivariate skewed distributions. In 'A unified view on skewed distributions arising from selections', they describe motivating examples that involve various forms of selection distributions and which lead to skewed distributions, and provide a detailed description of the link between these classes of distributions.

There follow two papers on robustness of design. In 'Some robust design strategies for percentile estimation in binary response models', Stefanie Biedermann, Holger Dette (both Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany) and Andrey Pepelyshev (St. Petersburg State U., Russia) consider the problem of designing for efficient and robust estimation of the percentiles of a dose response curve. They propose a maximin approach which yields locally optimal designs which are simultaneously efficient with respect to various parameter regions and link functions.

Zhide Fang (U. New Orleans), in 'Some robust designs for polynomial regression models', revisits the problem of designing for polynomial regression. The optimality criterion is a linear combination of the D-optimality criterion for the estimation of the low degree terms (included in the experimenter's model) and the Ds-optimality criterion for testing for higher degree (omitted) terms. Results on canonical

moments and on continued fractions are utilized for this purpose.

Continuing the robustness theme, Debbie J. Dupuis (HEC Montréal) and Maria-Pia Victoria-Feser (U. Geneva) study estimation of the Pareto tail index using extreme order statistics. In 'A robust prediction error criterion for Pareto modelling of upper tails', they develop robust methods for the determination of the number of order statistics to be used, and for the estimation of the tail index.

The development of automated mapping and geographic information systems has resulted in an enormous amount of information stored in the form of spatial databases. Although there is a large literature on modelling uncertainty associated with measurements at locations, the locations themselves are generally assumed to be correctly specified. In 'Modelling map positional error to infer true feature location', Jarrett J. Barber (U. Wyoming), Alan E. Gelfand (Duke U.) and John A. Silander Jr. (U. Connecticut) consider this problem of modelling the differences between locations as represented in a spatial database and the corresponding unobservable true locations.

In clinical and epidemiologic studies the event of interest is often recurrent. A common problem is that, even when the event times are known, their categories may be missing. In 'Multiple imputation methods for recurrent event data with missing event category', Douglas Schaubel (U.

Michigan) and Jianwen Cai (U. North Carolina at Chapel Hill) propose methods for dealing with this. Asymptotic properties are derived, and the applicability of the methods in finite samples is examined through simulation.

A new method of testing for multivariate uniformity is studied by José R. Berrendero, Antonio Cuevas (both Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) and Francisco Vázquez-Grande (U. Chicago). In 'Testing multivariate uniformity: the distance-to-boundary method', they derive a test statistic based on the distances of the observations from the boundary of the sample space. The method is shown to be distribution-free in many cases, and seems to be largely resistant to the "curse of dimensionality". Finally, Radu Herbei and Marten Wegkamp (both Florida State U.), in 'Classification with reject option', study a method of binary classification that allows for a reject option, in which case no decision is made. The reject option is to be made for those observations for which the conditional (on certain feature variables) class probabilities are close, and as such are hard to classify. Starting in the next issue of *Liaison*, this Coming Attractions column will be written by the incoming *CJS/RCS* Editor Paul Gustafson (U. British Columbia), to whom I gratefully turn over the reins at the end of the 2006 calendar year. Paul will outline his vision for the next three years in his Editorial in the March 2007 Journal; my final Editor's Report will also appear in that issue.

CONSULTANTS' FORUM

A Statistician Embedded in SAS

John Amrhein

SAS Institute (Canada) Inc., Toronto

Cary, NC, late 1980's

An infielder approached a cluster of 2 or 3 players from the opposing team and, seeing "SAS" emblazoned across the fronts of their uniforms, asked what the acronym meant. "I don't know" was the unanimous answer. "It's a software company" said one. "Has something to do with

statistics, I think" added another. I found this exchange curious, to say the least. How could a group of SAS employees not know what their company's software is all about?

I did not work for SAS in those days, only having joined SAS Canada in 1999. But

the situation is no different today. Worldwide, SAS employs more than 10,000 individuals. Most of these employees are in sales, marketing, finance, operations, etc. – areas that do not require a comprehensive understanding of statistical methods implemented in the software. Further, most components of the SAS

system do not involve statistics or statistical methods, so even within Research and Development or Customer Support, many employees have no need for an understanding of statistics.

So, what role(s) does a statistical instructor/consultant fill when employed by the largest producer of statistical analysis software, and the vast majority of his colleagues do not know, nor need to know, statistics, or even issues surrounding data collection, storage and retrieval? It's a bit of an ironic situation. More so, my employer, SAS Canada, is a subsidiary whose function is primarily software sales. Most of its employees work in either a sales or sales support capacity.

Focus on Customers

Focusing on the customer is the best way of dealing with the feeling of exclusion that comes from being a statistician employed by a sales organization. As a member of the Education Department within SAS Canada, my role is one of customer service. The services I provide fall into one of three categories.

- **Instruction:** SAS public courses are scripted lectures. Each delivery of a given course, *Categorical Data Analysis Using Logistic Regression* for example, is more or less the same. This predictability presents me, as the instructor, with the challenge of keeping the class interesting. Not only for the customers, who are hearing the material for the first time, but for myself, who is presenting it for the umpteenth time. My level of interest, whether low or high, is easily detected by the participants. My primary method for preventing my own loss of interest is to encourage questions from my audience. I have been teaching some courses for 7 years, and I still hear questions that have never before been asked. It is really rather amazing. The more difficult questions present an opportunity for personal growth because they force me to investigate the answer, which, in turn, increases my statistical or SAS programming knowledge. If I approach each class as a learning opportunity for myself, then I remain enthusiastic, and this projects to the audience.

With public instruction, customers must translate learned methods to their own situations. Also, course data rarely mimic a customer's own. Therefore, from a customer's viewpoint, although public courses are the least expensive



John Amrhein

service, they are also furthest removed from production. This sometimes leads to the customer's decision to pay for a customized course. The customer provides the data and the course is developed to teach the statistical methods needed to meet their research or business objectives. This requires an extensive period of course development. However, if the customer anticipates a repeated need for training, say annually, for multiple employees, then investing in the development effort the first time is worthwhile.

- **Mentoring:** This service is one on one, or one on two, customized instruction. It takes place at the customer's workplace and involves the use of their data. No course development period is required because this service does not involve lecture. It is two (or three) people working together to complete an analysis. These engagements are unscripted and unpredictable, which makes them rather challenging. However, the nature of this function provides me with excellent opportunities for personal growth because the data are unknown to me (and usually messy) and the questions continuous. Customer satisfaction is usually highest with this service because he/she will have a finished, or near-finished product at the end of the

engagement. In addition, he or she will know how to apply the methods on his or her own the next time they are needed. Because customer satisfaction is high, and my own satisfaction is high, mentoring is my favorite service to provide.

- **Consulting:** The final category of service is consulting. Unlike instruction and mentoring, when consulting, I do the work for the customer. They provide the data and subject-matter expertise, and I perform the analysis. From the customer's viewpoint, the advantage of consulting is the finished product at the end of the engagement. The disadvantage is that they will have to rehire a consultant the next time. From my viewpoint, consulting engagements are always challenging because they are, like mentoring, unscripted. No two engagements are the same. Each consulting assignment adds knowledge and experience upon which I never fail to later rely.

Having to provide all three of these services improves my skills at each. They all compliment each other. Removing one of them weakens my capabilities for the other two. Teaching statistics courses forces me to remain up to date with new methods and software, generalized linear mixed models, for example. That, in turn, enlarges my tool box for the next consulting assignment. The consulting assignments provide a plethora of stories and anecdotes to enhance the classroom experience, primarily around data preparation issues.

One of the biggest advantages of being a SAS consultant compared to an independent consultant is the large number and diversity of customers that I serve. They come from all sectors: finance, insurance, retail, health, pharmaceutical, government, academia, and telecommunications. The problems faced by my customers in these sectors are all similar, but never the same. Some require methods that have been around for centuries, others require methods that have not yet been theorized. The problems are never boring.

CONSULTANTS' FORUM

Resources

Another advantage of being at SAS is the available resources. Although SAS Canada is a sales organization, I have access to all the resources available at the headquarters in Cary, NC. This includes customized course development applications, SAS library services (that rival those of any university), project managers, SAS Technical Support, and very smart colleagues from around the globe. I take advantage of these resources on a regular basis, both when serving a customer and when increasing my own skills. I tell my customers that when they hire me, they are hiring access to a wealth of information and abilities.

Keeping Current, or What's new in SAS/STAT?

What's new in SAS/STAT? I have delivered this lecture to countless SAS Users Groups during the last 7 years. Providing gratis services of this type fills my time between paid services and keeps me up to date on changes and enhancements in SAS software. Some User Groups request specific topics, such as *Producing Presentation Quality Survival Curves with SAS/GRAPH*. Other times I get to choose. For example, *Influence Diagnostics for Mixed Models*. I always choose a topic that I know little about. Dangerous? Yes. Rewarding? Always. Keeping current on statistical methods newly implemented in SAS could occupy the majority of my time. The list is endless. As I write this, these topics come quickly to mind; quantile regression in the

QUANTREG Procedure, generalized linear mixed models in the GLIMMIX Procedure, LASSO and LAR effect selection methods in the GLMSELECT Procedure, and maybe even genetic algorithms in the GA Procedure in SAS/OR. But I always welcome opportunities to expand my statistics knowledge.

Spreading the Word

Finally, one of my roles, as that of every statistician, is to spread awareness of our profession. For me, this typically means focusing on my co-workers rather than my customers. These exchanges generally involve casual conversations. I often find myself answering questions of the form: What does PROC such-n-such do? Who uses it? When? Why? I have found that the best way to increase awareness of statistics is by example. Sharing a customer experience illustrates to my colleagues the value of SAS software and the statistical methods within. I get as much satisfaction when a co-worker understands the value of SAS software as when a customer understands a complex statistical concept. Well, almost.

What's in it for me (the independent consultant)?

If I was an independent consultant reading this column, I'd be wondering what use can I make of this information. There are many advantages to being an independent consultant. Some reasons have been written about in previous issues of this column. So the question might be if any of

the advantages that I wrote about can be enjoyed by independent consultants, such as access to software and resources. This would best be accomplished through partnerships – between consultants and with large firms. I do not know to what extent one already exists, but I think that there would be many advantages to belonging to a vibrant network of small consulting companies. Also, most large firms enter into partnerships to enhance sales and services. SAS Canada partners do enjoy access to SAS software and services.

In conclusion, should I ever overhear a conversation similar to the one I heard on the ball field in the late 1980s, I will not think that it is so strange. Nor will I stand idly by. Rather, I will take the opportunity to provide a little awareness training.

Brief Biography

John Amrhein is a Statistical Services Specialist at SAS Institute (Canada), Inc. in Toronto. He has been with SAS for more than 7 years. He was previously employed by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service in Washington, DC, where he designed sampling strategies for surveys of the US Agri-business sector. John holds several degrees; a BS in Forest Science from Penn State University, a MS in Forest Biometry from VA Polytechnic Institute, and a Master of Statistics from NC State University. John was awarded the Professional Statistician (PStat) designation from the SSC in 2005.

STUDENTS' CORNER

SSC Awards at the 2006 Canada-Wide Science Fair

Patricia Whitridge, Elections Canada
2005-2006 Chair of the Education Committee

The Statistical Society of Canada sponsored three cash awards for projects at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, held this year in Saguenay, Quebec. The SSC awards are for outstanding projects in statistical theory, or projects that use sound study design, data analysis and data presentation.

The students decided whether they wished to be considered for the SSC cash awards.

The prize money this year was provided in part by the Biostatistics Section of the SSC and the rest by the SSC itself. The judges reviewed all of the nominated projects and selected three prize winners based on their project displays and their answers to questions raised by the judges in personal interviews.

The third prize of \$400. in the Junior Category was awarded to Clark Wilkinson

from Mildmay, Ontario, for his project "X Marks the Pill". He surveyed children to see if they could differentiate between pills and candy. The average child had an accuracy of 71.2%; however if a black X was put on the pills, the results increased to 95.8%.

Aaron Hakim from Mississauga, Ontario, was awarded the \$600 second prize in the Intermediate Category for his project "Af-



*Clark Wilkinson : Winner
in Junior Category*

fecting Aging: Protection of cSOD-deficient *Drosophila* from Oxidative Stress". Two treatments, caloric restriction and dietary antioxidant supplementation, were tried on flies to see what effect they would have on the aging process. Results showed that both might retard the aging process.

Ashley Doyle from Cornwall, Prince Edward Island, was awarded the first prize of



*Aaron Hakim: Winner in
Intermediate Category*

\$1,000. in the Senior Category for her project "Blame it on Your Parents? Part II: Temperamental Trait Investigation". Her project investigated the possibility of a relationship between parental age at the time of a child's conception and that child's temperament. Traits were measured using a self-reported method and data were analyzed statistically. A strong correlation was identified between



*Ashley Doyle: Winner in
Senior Category*

certain traits and paternal age at time of conception; however, very little correlation was present between maternal age and temperament.

The 2007 Canada-Wide Science fair will be held in May 2007 in Truro, Nova Scotia. Volunteers to help judge for the SSC Awards are most welcome.

ARTICLE

Census on the Cover: II

*Yogendra P. Chaubey
Concordia University*

*George P. H. Styan
McGill University*

The front cover of this issue of **SSC Liaison** depicts six postage stamps that are connected with a census. Although we might have difficulty imagining a time or place without a census, *i.e.*, a counting of the population and a gathering of related statistics, these stamps all celebrate a "first" census of some kind. That such postage stamps have appeared is a tribute to the importance of the role of the census as a measure of our civilization.

The outside front cover of the May 2006 issue of **SSC Liaison** showed the "Census at Bethlehem", a 1566 painting by Pieter Brueghel the Elder (c.1525--1569). From 1559 he dropped the 'h' from his

name and started signing his paintings as Bruegel. For Christmas 1969, Belgium issued a stamp (Scott 732) showing a detail (lower center) of this painting.

In 1962 Canada issued a stamp (Scott 398) showing Jean Talon (1625--1694) presenting gifts to a young farm couple. The first census in North America was the 1666 census of New France conducted by Jean Talon, who was the first intendant of New France. From the Wikipedia article "1666 census of New France" we learn that "Talon and the French Minister of the Marine, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, had recently (1663) brought the colony of New France under direct royal control, and

Colbert wished to make it the centre of the French colonial empire. To do this he needed to know the state of the population, so that the economic and industrial basis of the colony could be expanded."

New France was the "the area colonized by France in North America during a period extending from the exploration of the Saint Lawrence River, by Jacques Cartier (1491--1557) in 1534, to the cession of New France to the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1763. At its peak in 1712 (before the Treaty of Utrecht), the territory of New France extended from Newfoundland to Lake Superior and from the Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico. The

ARTICLE

territory was then divided in five colonies, each with its own administration: Canada, Acadia, Hudson Bay, Newfoundland and Louisiana." [Wikipedia]

In 1971 Canada issued a stamp (Scott 542) showing computer tape and reels in celebration of the "Centenary of measured progress through census". In 1871, Canada's first formal census was conducted, which counted the population of Nova Scotia, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Québec. In 1918, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was formed, and in 1971 this was replaced by Statistics Canada, which now runs the census in five-year intervals, with the most recent census conducted in May 2006.

The American Topical Association census checklist identifies over 200 stamps issued in connection with the census through September 1995. The oldest is a stamp from Japan issued on 25 September 1920 for the "taking of the first modern census in Japan" (Scott 159). The stamp depicts a census officer in ad 652.

As observed in Wikipedia, the Domesday Book was "the record of the great survey of

England completed in 1086, executed for William the Conqueror (c. 1028--1087). This survey was similar to a census by a government of today. William needed information about the country he had just conquered so he could administer it.

Whilst spending the Christmas of 1085 in Gloucester, William 'had deep speech with his counsellors and sent men all over England to each shire ... to find out ... what or how much each landholder had in land and livestock, and what it was worth.' One of the main purposes of the survey was to find out who owned what so they could be taxed on it, and the judgment of the assessors was final — whatever the book said about who owned the property, or what it was worth, was the law, and there was no appeal.

The Domesday Book was written in Latin, and when the book took the name Domesday (Middle English spelling of Doomsday) in the 12th century, it was to emphasize its definitiveness and authority. In August 2006, a complete online version of the Domesday Book was made available for the first time by the The National Archives."

In 1986 Great Britain issued a set of four stamps (Scott 1145--1148) in celebration of the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book. The 17p stamp (shown on the cover) depicts a "Peasant", the 22p a "Freeman", the 31p a "Knight" and the 34p a "Lord".

The Icelandic stamp (Scott 996) was issued on 4 September 2003 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the first census in Iceland. This census was conducted in 1703, and was the first ever census to cover all inhabitants of an entire country, mentioning the name, age and social position of each individual. All of the information still exists, although some of the original documents have been lost.

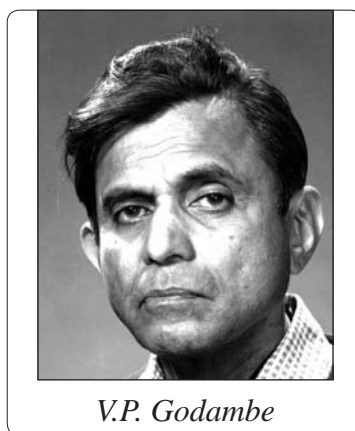
Iceland was one of the last large islands uninhabited by humans until it was discovered and settled by immigrants from Scandinavia and Ireland during the 9th and 10th centuries. The Althing (or general assembly) was founded in AD 930, and is the oldest still-standing parliament in the world that has written documents to prove its age." [Wikipedia]

NEWS

V.P. Godambe's 80th Birthday Celebrated

80th birthday of **V.P. Godambe**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Statistics University of Waterloo, Canada, was celebrated in India and Canada. In India, the Department of Statistics and Institute of Science, Nagpur, held a conference on January 1-2, 2006, on Recent Trends in Estimation and Optimization: Theory and Applications to recognize the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the department of Statistics in the Institute of Science as well as Professor V. P. Godambe's famous theorem of 1955 (JRSSB, 17, 269-278) on the foundations of survey sampling.

In Canada, the Department of Statistics, University of Waterloo, organized a



V.P. Godambe

series of invited lectures, at the 34th annual meeting of Statistical Society of Canada held at the University of Western Ontario (May 28-31, 2006) on Estimating Functions; a topic started by Godambe's 1960 paper in Annals of Mathematical Statistics.

Professor Sutradhar awarded 2006 Fellow of the American Statistical Association

Brajendra Sutradhar, Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, received his Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) award from Dr. Sallie Keller-McNulty, President of the ASA during the annual awards ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle on August 8. This Fellow title is awarded to Professor Sutradhar for his outstanding contributions to multivariate statistics, estimation theory and the analysis of longitudinal and clustered data; for applications to important societal problems; and for service to the profession. He is also a University Research Professor at Memorial

University of Newfoundland, Canada, and is an ordinary member of the International Statistical Institute elected in 1991.

N. Balakrishnan Named IMS Fellow

N. Balakrishnan, Professor, McMaster University, was named Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS). The induction ceremony took place August 2, 2006, at the IMS Annual Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Professor Balakrishnan received the award for research on order statistics and applications to life-testing and reliability; for scholarly publications on distributions; for leadership in encyclopedic publications; and for service to the profession by organizing numerous conferences.

Québec

Laval University

Lajmi Lakhal Chaieb has joined the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the rank of assistant professor on September 1st. Christian Genest is on research leave from June 1st to May 31st 2007, and Claude Bélisle takes over as associate chair of the undergraduate studies in statistics. Michael Perrinowski, professor at the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University, is visiting professor Louis-Paul Rivest until December 30.

Contributed by Thierry Duchesne, Université Laval



Brajendra Sutradhar receiving the Fellowship Plaque from Sallie Keller-McNulty, President of the ASA



Professor Balakrishnan receiving the Fellowship Plaque from Professor Tom Kurtz, President of the IMS

OBITUARIES

Chandrakant M. Deo

V.P. Godambe, University of Waterloo, Canada, and Vasant Waikar, Miami University, USA

Dr. Chandrakant (Raja) Mahadeo Deo passed away on December 22, 2005 in Ottawa, Canada. By now it is a few months since Raja Deo passed away yet unfortunately not many in the statistical community know about it, hence this belated obituary. He was 65 and had

recently retired from the Mathematics Department, University of Ottawa, after teaching there for 25 years.

Raja Deo was born and grew up in Nagpur, India. After matriculation in 1955, he entered the College of Science (now Institute of Science) in Nagpur. He obtained his B.Sc. with highest honours and then M.Sc. in Statistics in 1961. He was awarded a gold medal for scoring the highest marks among all M.Sc. students of the Nagpur University that year.

After teaching at Science College for a year he joined the University of California at Berkeley in 1962 to pursue a Ph.D. in Statistics. During his M.Sc. studies, Raja Deo was taught by Professor V.P. Godambe (now at University of Waterloo) who inspired and encouraged Raja to do research in statistics.

At Berkeley Raja's Ph.D. advisor was Professor R.M. Dudley of the Mathematics Department. Raja was the first Ph.D. student of Prof. Dudley who is now at

OBITUARIES

MIT. Prof. Dudley recalls the following about Raja: "He took some graduate courses from me. His written work in those courses, problem sets and exams, was extraordinarily neat, clear and brief. If, as occasionally happened, he didn't have an answer to a question he would simply leave it out and not write down struggles with it (as other, even very good students would)".

Raja joined the Statistics Department at the University of Oregon at Eugene after finishing his Ph.D. After teaching there for a while, Raja migrated to Canada. He joined the faculty in the Mathematics Department of the University of Ottawa and stayed there until his retirement.

He was known as an excellent teacher and also made significant contributions to research in probability. In particular, Deo made fundamental contributions to functional limit theorems and probabilities of moderate deviations. In recognition of his research contributions to probability theory, he was appointed for a three year term as Member of the grants committee of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council for Statistical Sciences.

Raja Deo leaves behind his wife Suneeta, son Rahul, daughter Urmila Deo Jangra (Dalbhir Jangra), and a grandson Karan Jangra. Raja Deo will be very much missed by his family, friends, and the many students he guided.

André Robert Dabrowski

Gail Ivanoff, University of Ottawa, and David McDonald, University of Ottawa

André Robert Dabrowski, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics and Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Ottawa, died of cancer on Saturday, October 7, 2006, after calmly saying farewell to family and a few close friends and colleagues.

André was an undergraduate in Mathematics at the University of Ottawa (B.Sc., 1977, M.Sc., 1978) and he has made an enormous contribution to the university since his return as a professor in 1985. In the classroom, André's teach-

ing methods were frequently unorthodox and innovative, and his graduate courses were always very popular. André was the driving force in the creation of the new collaborative M.Sc. in biostatistics, a joint program with Epidemiology. He supervised 15 M.Sc. and Ph.D. students with considerable expertise and affection. By arranging seminars or trips to conferences, André enhanced his students' academic experience well beyond the textbooks and the research.

André's administrative contributions to the University of Ottawa included a term as Director of the Ottawa-Carleton Institute in Mathematics & Statistics and a term as Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Science. As the recently appointed Dean of Science, he had ambitious plans for the faculty but his mandate was unfortunately cut short.

On the local and national fronts, André was a past Secretary-Treasurer and Vice-President of the Statistical Society of Ottawa, and he served as an Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Statistics. In addition, he was partway through his term as the first President of the Probability Section of the Statistical Society of Canada (a section established under his leadership).

André had a wide range of research interests. After completing his M.Sc. at the University of Ottawa under the supervision of Chandrakant Deo, he did his Ph.D. with Walter Philipp at the University of Illinois (Ph.D., 1982). His doctoral thesis research concerned weak convergence and limit theorems for dependent random variables, which had applications to the asymptotic distribution of U-statistics and martingales. He continued this line of research in collaborations with Gail Ivanoff, Harold Dehling, Robert Burton and Adam Jakubowski.

He quickly developed an interest in biological problems and made significant contributions to the statistical analysis of records of ion channels found in cellular membranes. His interest extended to taking Cathy Morris's graduate course in biophysics and he dragged his co-author David McDonald along because he thought it would be good for him. He

also worked with Lawrence Oppenheimer in treating fetal heart monitoring as an industrial quality control problem. His interests in biology recently evolved to addressing questions in the design and analysis of data arising from microarray experiments on gene expression.

André co-authored several papers with David McDonald on rare event simulation of queueing networks. He also collaborated with Mayer Alvo and Cynthia Bocci on problems in environmental statistics. All his co-authors will agree that it was a pleasure to work with André. He never gave up. André would always come up with a clever new idea to move a project forward. To illustrate his ingenuity, let's focus on one example taken from a joint paper with David McDonald in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*. Imagine an instrument that counts events occurring over time. One wishes to determine the average number of events per unit time, but the instrument has a dead time after each count, so two events arriving close together are miscounted as one. We were asked if one could compensate for the missed events. We were given long digitized records of biological events in which the instrumentation dead time was known. André suggested we make the situation WORSE by artificially increasing the dead time and then calculate the average arrival rate for different dead times. Necessarily, longer dead times produced lower arrival rates and this decrease was approximately linear. We therefore extrapolated backwards to zero dead time. The method is simple, practical and very clever. It worked very nicely. Maybe it was novel but it doesn't really matter. It was new for André and it solved our problem. That's what André did best. He found clever, simple solutions to problems, mathematical or personal. He was a reasonable, caring person who didn't ask much for himself. He just tried to make things better for those around him.

André leaves a wife (Debbie), a son (Adam) and a daughter (Leah). He was a devoted husband and father; no matter how busy he was with other activities, his family always came first. We have lost a valued colleague and friend. André will be greatly missed.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The University of Western Ontario Faculty of Science Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences

The Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences invites applications for a probationary (tenure-track) position in optimization with applications in financial mathematics at the Assistant Professor level to commence on July 1, 2007. A PhD degree and demonstrated excellence in teaching and research are required for the position. The successful candidate will be expected to teach in both the undergraduate and graduate programs, supervise graduate students and establish an independent research program.

Please submit a curriculum vitae and arrange for at least three letters of reference to be sent directly to:

Professor Bruce L. Jones, Chair
Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences
The University of Western Ontario
WSC 262 – 1151 Richmond Street
London, Ontario Canada N6A 5B7

The deadline for receipt of applications is **January 15, 2007**.

Positions are subject to budget approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Western Ontario is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.

Simon Fraser University Faculty Position in Biostatistics Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science seeks to fill a tenure-track faculty position in biostatistics. Candidates are required to hold a Ph. D. in an area of biostatistics, and should show strong potential in research and teaching. Candidates specializing in a related area of statistics may also apply, but strong preference will be given to candidates with a clear focus in biostatistics. The appointment will be made at the Assistant Professor level.

The Department has a strong applied focus with 19 faculty members, and the university is currently developing a new Faculty of Health Sciences. Further information about the Department is available at www.stat.sfu.ca, and about the University, at www.sfu.ca.

Review of applications will begin on January 4, 2007, and the search will remain active until the position is filled. Please submit, to the following address: (i) a curriculum vitae and (ii) a letter outlining your future research programme and teaching philosophy. Also, please arrange for (iii) three letters of reference to be sent directly to:

Dr. Rick Routledge, Chair
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6, Canada
FAX (604) 291-4368

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Simon Fraser University, located in the greater Vancouver area, is committed to employment equity, welcomes diversity in the workplace, and encourages applications from all qualified individuals including women, members of visible minorities, aboriginal persons, and persons with disabilities. All appointments are subject to budgetary authorization. Under the authority of the University Act personal information that is required by the University for academic appointment competitions will be collected. For further details see: www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/Faculty_Openings/Collection_Notice.html

SAS Analyst/Biostatistician

The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) is an independent, non-profit organization that conducts research on a broad range of topical issues to enhance the effectiveness of health care for the people of the province of Ontario. Internationally recognized for its innovative use of population-based health information, ICES research provides evidence to support health policy development and changes to the organization and delivery of health care services. You can learn more about ICES at www.ices.on.ca.

As a member of our Programming and Biostatistics team, you will work collaboratively with physicians and other researchers to develop study designs, assemble meaningful datasets for research questions, conduct exploratory and statistical analyses of the data, interpret the results, produce reports, and participate in writing papers for peer-reviewed journals.

This position requires an MSc in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Health Sciences or a related field, as well as experience with SAS and other data management tools. As the ideal candidate you will have an aptitude for research methodology, demonstrated attention to detail, creativity in developing data measures, and initiative in resolving data anomalies. Strong oral and written communication skills are essential. Experience in the health care sector is preferred.

You are invited to apply to Kathy Sykora, Director, Programming and Biostatistics, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, 2075 Bayview Avenue, G106, Toronto, Ontario M4N 3M5, Fax: (416) 480-6048, e-mail: resumes@ices.on.ca.

University of Waterloo Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo invites applications for a tenure-track position in Actuarial Science at the Assistant or Associate Professor level. Candidates must have a PhD in an area of the mathematical, statistical or actuarial sciences, and research interests in actuarial science. Professional actuarial qualifications and experience, although not strictly necessary, would be a distinct asset. Departmental strengths in Actuarial Science and Finance cover a wide range of topics including probabilistic and statistical modelling in risk theory, insurance, pensions, solvency management and stochastic models in finance. Additional opportunities for collaboration at UW can occur through the Centre for Advanced Studies in Finance (www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/ACCT/finance/casf.htm), the Institute of Insurance and Pension Research (www.stats.uwaterloo.ca/Stats_Dept/IIPR/contents.html), and the Institute for Quantitative Finance and Insurance (www.iqfi.uwaterloo.ca).

Applicants must have proven ability in or potential for research, in addition to good teaching and communication skills. Duties include undergraduate and graduate teaching, and the development of an independent research program. The salary offered will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The effective date is expected to be July 1, 2007 or later. The closing date for applications is **December 31, 2006**.

Please submit a curriculum vitae, and arrange for at least three letters of reference to be sent to Professor David E. Matthews, Chair Statistics and Actuarial Science University of Waterloo Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, CANADA

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Waterloo encourages applications from all qualified individuals, including women, members of visible minorities, native peoples, and persons with disabilities.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The University of Western Ontario Department of Applied Mathematics


TENURE-TRACK FACULTY POSITION IN MATHEMATICAL FINANCE


Applications are invited for a probationary (tenure-track) faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor in the research field of Financial Mathematics in the Department of Applied Mathematics at The University of Western Ontario (www.apmaths.uwo.ca). A researcher in any area of financial mathematics with demonstrated or potential excellence in research and teaching is sought to complement the existing strengths of the research group in financial mathematics, both within the Department and within our sister Department of Statistical & Actuarial Sciences. Industrial experience or contacts are an asset. The starting date will be July 1, 2007 or thereafter.

The position will entail active participation in the activities and service of the Department of Applied Mathematics, including the supervision of graduate students and teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels. To ensure full consideration, applications including a c.v., names of three referees and a research proposal should be received prior to **December 15, 2006**. Address applications to:

Dr. Robert Corless, Chair
Department of Applied Mathematics
Middlesex College, The University Of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, Canada
email: pmalone@uwo.ca

This position is subject to budgetary approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Western Ontario is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men including visible minorities, aboriginal people, and persons with disabilities.

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ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

The University of Calgary invites applications for a tenure track position at the Assistant Professor level in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, beginning July 1, 2007. The starting date may be negotiated. The Department is seeking an outstanding candidate with a PhD in an area of the mathematical or statistical sciences, and with research and teaching interests in **Actuarial Science** or a closely related area in **Statistics**.

Duties include undergraduate and graduate teaching in actuarial science and statistics, and the development of an independent research program. This position is in support of actuarial science instruction and research, so a candidate's expertise in actuarial science and/or related statistical areas of activity is essential.

The ideal candidate will either have a professional actuarial qualification or be working actively towards accreditation in the Society of Actuaries or Casualty Actuarial Society. The ideal candidate will also have a proven ability for research, good communication skills, and demonstrated quality teaching ability at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Candidates with an interest in all areas of actuarial science are welcomed. Exceptional candidates in other fields are also encouraged to apply, as discussed above. However, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Calgary respects, appreciates, and encourages diversity.

The actuarial science program at the University of Calgary is one of the largest in Western Canada. Within the department, actuarial researchers have opportunities for collaboration with fellow researchers in actuarial science, statistics, and mathematical finance, and with researchers in finance, insurance, and risk management in the Haskayne School of Business.

The closing date is **December 1, 2006**, but applications will be accepted until the position has been filled.

Please submit a curriculum vitae, together with a description of research expertise and a short statement about teaching philosophy. Applicants should provide at least three letters of recommendation. At least one of these letters should report on the candidate's teaching abilities. These documents should be addressed to:

Actuarial Science Search Committee
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1N4

The department web page is www.math.ucalgary.ca. Further information concerning this position is available from Professor David Scollnik, telephone (403) 220-7677, or email: scollnik@math.ucalgary.ca.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

The University of Calgary respects, appreciates and encourages diversity.

To see all University of Calgary academic positions, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/br/career



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Cancer Health Services Research Scientist

The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) are jointly recruiting an independent scientist with expertise in biostatistical or epidemiologic methods to collaborate as part of a joint cancer health services research program. ICES is an independent, non-profit research organization that uses population-based health information to produce knowledge on a broad range of health care issues. CCO is a planning and research organization that advises the Ontario government on all aspects of provincial cancer care, provides information to health care providers and decision makers, and improves cancer system performance.

Candidates should have a doctorate in health services research, epidemiology, biostatistics or a related quantitative field; strong research methodology skills; experience in cancer health services research, including research using health administrative data; and strong collaborative skills.

Candidates are invited to submit a CV and letter of application to Therese Stukel, PhD, ICES, G106-2075 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4N 3M5, resumes@ices.on.ca. Applications received prior to November 15, 2006, will be given first consideration.

In accordance with Canadian immigration regulations, preference will be given to Canadian citizens and landed immigrants. For more information: www.ices.on.ca/file/Cancer_Researcher.pdf.

Mathematics & Statistics Department Queen's University

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics invites applications for a tenure-track appointment in Statistics at the Assistant Professor level to begin July 1, 2007.

Successful applicants must have a strong research record and demonstrate the potential for research leadership. Candidates must have the ability to excel in teaching a broad range of statistics courses and in supervising graduate students. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Exceptionally qualified candidates may be appointed at a higher rank. Candidates should have a Ph.D. in statistics or a related area. All areas of statistics are welcome, though applicants will be assessed on the way their work will complement or enhance the existing research profile of the department. Research profiles are available at www.mast.queensu.ca/graduate/prob.php.

Interested candidates should arrange for a curriculum vitae, a description of research interests, up to five publications or preprints, a statement on teaching or a teaching dossier, and at least four letters of reference, one of which should comment on the candidate's teaching, to be sent to the address below by December 1, 2006. Applications will be considered until the position is filled but priority will be given to those received before December 1, 2006. Further instructions are available at www.mast.queensu.ca/positions/index.php.

Leslie G. Roberts, Associate Head
Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Queen's University
Kingston Ontario K7L 3N6
e-mail: position@mast.queensu.ca
web: www.mast.queensu.ca
fax: (613) 533-2964

In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University invites applications from all qualified individuals. Queen's is committed to employment equity and diversity in the workplace and welcomes applications from women, visible minorities, aboriginal people, persons with disabilities and persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity. The academic staff at Queen's University are governed by a collective agreement between the Queen's University Faculty Association (QUFA) and the University which is posted at www.qufa.ca.



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The University of Western Ontario Faculty of Science Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences



The Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences invites applications for a year Limited Term position at the rank Lecturer or Assistant Professor in the area Statistics commencing September 2007. Minimum qualifications are a Master's degree in Statistics with demonstrated excellence in teaching. Duties will include teaching up to eight half-course equivalents in Statistics at the first year, 100-level and 200-level over a twelve-month period, plus student counselling and other administrative duties. The teaching assignments may include teaching large enrollment courses.

Applications, including a detailed curriculum vitae and the names of three referees should be sent to:

Professor Bruce L. Jones, Chair
Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences
The University of Western Ontario
WSC 262 – 1151 Richmond Street
London, Ontario Canada N6A 5B7

The deadline for receipt of applications is **January 15, 2007**.

Position is subject to budget approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Western Ontario is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.

Notice to Advertisers

SSC Liaison is published four times per year in February, May, July, and October. Deadlines for material are 1 September, 1 January, 1 April and 1 June, respectively. Camera-ready material may be accepted up to 15 days later at the discretion of the Editor. Please send your material to the Liaison office at the address below.

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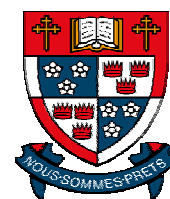
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Simon Fraser University Faculty of Health Sciences

Announces

The Milan and Maureen Ilich\Merck Frosst Chair In Biostatistics for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases



The Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, and the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada are pleased to announce the first endowed professorship in statistics and rheumatic diseases. We invite nominations and applicants for The Milan and Maureen Ilich\Merck Frosst Chair in Biostatistics for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases.

The candidate should be an internationally recognized scholar and educator in basic and applied biostatistical research, and in the development of new statistical and epidemiological methods and their application to major clinical problems in chronic arthritic diseases. Previous experience in collaborative multidisciplinary research is essential and collaboration in arthritis or musculoskeletal disease is desirable.

Experience in the mentoring and supervision of trainees in biostatistics, as well as the ability to teach biostatistics to epidemiologists and clinician scientists, is required. The recipient of The Milan and Maureen Ilich\Merck Frosst Chair will be appointed a Senior Research Scientist at the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada and Professor of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University.

The Faculty of Health Sciences is the newest faculty of Simon Fraser University, with a focus on the integration of social and natural science research with population outcomes, societal application and policy analysis. This integration combines a broad spectrum of research approaches, methods of inquiry, and levels of analysis and research perspectives. The Arthritis Research Centre of Canada is an independent research facility affiliated with Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia. It has a full-time faculty of nine and more than 40 employees working in the areas of rheumatology, orthopedics, physical medicine, occupational therapy, epidemiology and health economics.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Applicants should submit a CV, three letters of reference, up to four representative publications, and statements of research interests/plans and teaching philosophy to:

The Milan and Maureen Ilich\Merck Frosst Chair Search Committee
Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive, WMC 2812
Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, V5A 1S6,
or by Email to FHS_recruit@sfu.ca

Simon Fraser University is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people, and persons with disabilities. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. Information about the Faculty of Health Sciences can be found at fhs.sfu.ca/faculty_openings.

Under the authority of the University Act personal information that is required by the University for Academic Appointment competitions will be collected. For further details see: www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/Faculty_Openings/Collection_Notice.html