A standing ovation of 400 banquet guests to celebrate Agnes Herzberg’s induction into Honorary Membership in the SSC in St. John’s, NL.
The University of Manitoba
Faculty of Science Department of Statistics
Tenure-track Position

The Department of Statistics at the University of Manitoba invites applications for one full-time tenure track position at the rank of Assistant Professor in the field of Statistics. Position Number: AV589. The appointment will begin on a mutually agreed upon date on or before July 1, 2008. The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. degree (or a Ph.D. degree to be completed by the starting date) in Statistics, and have demonstrated competence in teaching and research in any area of Statistics. The position is subject to final budgetary approval. Duties will include research, undergraduate teaching, graduate teaching and supervision, and service-related activities. Please send applications including a current curriculum vitae, description of research interests, and a statement of teaching philosophy to:

Chair
Search Committee (Statistics)
Department of Statistics
The University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 2N2
Tel.: 204-474-8172
Fax: 204-474-8172
E-mail: stats_dept@umanitoba.ca

In addition, please send the names and contact information for three references. Consideration of applications will commence on October 1, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. Application materials, including letters of reference will be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Manitoba).

The Department of Statistics is one of the oldest and largest Statistics Departments in Canada. The Department currently has 14 full-time academic members, with research interests in various areas of statistics and probability. The Department has active B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs focusing on both theory and application. The successful applicant will find it is an exciting time to join the Department! Eight new faculty members have been hired during the past five years, and more positions are expected in the coming years. The Department is full of energy, and it is thus an ideal time for new faculty members to contribute to the reshaping of the research and teaching programs for the 21st century. The Department and the University have excellent computing facilities. Additional information about the Department can be found on the web site at www.umanitoba.ca/statistics.

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

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
The University of Western Ontario

International Collaboration on Complex Interventions
Post Doctoral Position
Biostatistics

An international collaborative program is seeking to recruit a recent PhD in Biostatistics to a two year postdoctoral position. The main responsibilities of the successful applicant will be to conduct methodological research relevant to cluster randomization trials and to participate in related collaborative research with the investigators.

The position is part of the International Collaboration on Complex Interventions (www.interventionresearch.ca) funded through a CIHR Centres for Research Development grant in population health. The successful applicant would be expected to take part in the annual scientific meetings of ICCI.

Experience in the design and analysis of comparative studies, particularly those involving correlated outcome data is an asset. The position will be based in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario and supervised by Dr. Allan Donner. Some travel will be required to Calgary, Alberta where a cluster trial in schools-based mental health promotion will be taking place under the direction of Dr. Penny Hawe.

Interested applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests and three references to:

Allan Donner, PhD
Professor
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Kresge Building, Room K201
The University of Western Ontario
London, ON N6A 5C1

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.
Message from the President

Christian Genest, Ph.D., P.Stat. (Université Laval)

Dear members,

The Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) has flourished ever since it was born in 1977-8 from the merger of the Canadian Statistical Society and the Statistical Science Association of Canada. It is now one of the leaders in the discipline on the world scene. Nevertheless, it continues to rely essentially on volunteers for its operation. Year in, year out, over 150 people serve the SSC in various capacities... and each year, over a third of them must be replaced.

The SSC has been fortunate to be able to rely on so much talent, expertise, and good will for the development of its wide variety of services. The Annual Meeting, Liaison, The Canadian Journal of Statistics (CJS), the web site www.ssc.ca and the fledgling accreditation program are some of its best assets.

It is the daunting task of the President of the Society, together with the Executive Committee, to steer this ship, to coordinate action and to motivate the troops. Charmaine Dean has been quite efficient in this capacity and while I am ready to meet the challenge, I am keenly aware that she will be a tough act to follow.

To assist me in this enterprise, I will be able to rely on experienced people in all key positions. In addition, the newly created position of Executive Director should improve coordination between the Executive Committee and the SSC Office in Ottawa. I am grateful to David Binder for agreeing to serve in this capacity.

Here are some of the challenges that we will be facing in the near future:

1- In May 2008, the SSC and the SFdS (Société française de statistique) will hold their Annual Meeting jointly at the Ottawa Congress Centre. No effort has been spared to ensure the scientific and financial success of this large meeting. Local arrangements are coming along nicely, thanks to the work of Pierre Lavallée (Statistics Canada), who is assisted by many volunteers on both sides of the Atlantic (most notably Michel Delecroix). The Scientific Program Committee is chaired by Bruno Rémillard (HEC Montréal) and Marc Hallin (U. libre de Bruxelles), who have struck the necessary compromises between the traditions of the two societies and who are now busy putting together the Invited Program.

2- After managing the CJS for many years, George and Evelyn Styan will retire at the end of 2008. Given the increasing complexity of the publication business, a task force has been struck to explore the possibility of asking a commercial publisher to take over the production. The legal and financial implications of the issue will be examined, as well as the potential impact of this option on the mission and reputation of the CJS. A recommendation will be made to the Board in the course of the year.

3- As announced elsewhere in this issue, an increased workload and new responsibilities led the Editor-in-Chief of Liaison, Frances van den Enden, to resign in early June. In view of delays in production, the May issue was cancelled and all the material that remained relevant now appears in the present issue. We thank Frances for her efforts and are indebted to Angelo Canty and Román Viveros-Aguilera for replacing her at the last moment. We are thrilled that Larry Weldon has agreed to take charge of Liaison, starting with the October issue. He has a great deal of editorial experience, and as he gradually takes over the production, we will explore with him different means of increasing its efficiency. We are thinking, e.g., of making Liaison an electronic publication only as a cost saving measure.

4- There are many other ways in which the SSC could profit from technology and save both time and money. There would be clear advantages, for example, in holding the elections electronically. The Institute of Mathematical Statistics has already gone that way; why shouldn’t we? There may be important initial costs involved, but this issue could be considered as part of a much needed overhaul of the SSC web site. The Executive Committee has started moving in this direction by appointing Peter Macdonald in a new capacity as Manager of Electronic Services.

5- At an organizational level, we will soon need to revise the By-Laws of the SSC. It would be good, among others, to give a legal existence to the positions of Executive Director and Manager of Electronic Services. We should also reconsider the composition of the Executive Committee (which might include some Appointed Officials), the length of terms of certain Officers (e.g., 3 years instead of 2 for the Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer), etc.

The SSC is turning 30 this year. Now that it has grown and matured, it faces new challenges and may soon have to make crucial decisions. One can accomplish a great deal on voluntary work, but resources cannot be stretched indefinitely. A day will come, and it may be close, when the SSC will need its Executive Director and Electronic Services Manager to work full-time. Sooner or later, it will also need to hire staff to organize meetings and look after services to members. We can try to postpone this moment through re-engineering (e.g., by reducing the size of the Board). Nevertheless, the time will come, and the necessary financial resources will need to come with it. It may be that the Society can increase its revenues by striking a deal with a commercial publisher for the production of the CJS. But it would be naïve to think that SSC membership fees can remain at a mere $100 for much longer.

Do not hesitate to contact me to make comments or suggestions concerning the future of the SSC. Members of the Board and Executive Committee join me in wishing you all a pleasant and refreshing summer.
Welcome to the May-July 2007 issue of Liaison. As many of you may have noticed, there has been quite a gap since the last issue. Unfortunately a major change in her work responsibilities meant that Frances van den Enden found it impossible to continue in her position as editor of Liaison. On behalf of the SSC, we would like to thank Frances for her work since taking over the editorship and wish her all the best in her future activities. Over the past month, our Past-President, Charmaine Dean, has worked hard to secure a new editor for Liaison and we are happy to report that Larry Weldon of Simon Fraser University has agreed to take on the task for three years commencing with the October 2007 issue. We welcome Larry to the post and are confident that he will prove to be a very successful editor. Larry has a wealth of experience in similar positions for the International Association of Statistical Education as well as publishing the Departmental Newsletter for SFU’s Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science. His interests in statistical education and students coincide with some of the recommendations of Nancy Heckman’s Committee on SSC Priorities of which you can read more in this issue. Unfortunately, this change of editorship coupled with some other production difficulties meant that we were not able to produce the May issue of Liaison on time and so the issue has been combined with the July issue. Any articles from that issue which remain relevant are published in this issue. While we wait for Larry to take over in October, Angelo Canty and Román Viveros-Aguilera are acting as interim co-editors for this issue.

In some sad news, our colleague and friend Charlie Dunnett passed away in May. He will be sorely missed by all of us here at McMaster as well as the wider statistical community in Canada and worldwide. In an obituary published in this issue, Peter Macdonald, Ajit Tamhane and George Styan talk about Charlie’s wonderful life and career.

This issue is the first under the SSC presidency of Christian Genest. In his column he discusses his priorities for the upcoming year. This will be a busy year for Christian with the upcoming joint meeting with the Société française de statistique in Ottawa. We also include reports from our previous presidents, David Binder and Charmaine Dean. Last year, Charmaine Dean set up two important Ad Hoc committees which report in this issue also. These committees were mandated to deal with SSC Priorities (with Nancy Heckman as Chair) and the concerns of New Investigators (with Peter Song as Chair). Nancy Heckman has written a report with some of the recommendations that arose from her committee and would welcome feedback from members. Another interesting report was written by Patricia Whitridge, on behalf of the Statistical Education Committee, regarding the SSC involvement in the Canada-Wide Science Fair and announcing this year’s winner of the SSC award at that event. Nancy Reid presents a report on the recipients of the Society’s awards this year and announces some new awards that the Society will be instituting in 2008 as well as the re-organization of the Awards Committee required to deal with these extra awards. Consultant’s Forum editor Janet McDougall selected a very interesting article by Eric Woodsworth on his career in wildlife biometrics at Environment Canada for this issue. As always in the July issue we include a pictorial account of our recent very successful annual meetings in St. John’s, NL. Thanks to Peter Macdonald and Chris Hammond for the wonderful pictures. The issue is rounded out with a look at what is new with NPCDS and what we can expect in the next issue of CJS.

We hope that you find the double issue enjoyable and informative.
Notes from the Secretary

Paul Cabilio (Acadia University)

Hi everyone.

This is my first message in Liaison since my term began last July, and I wanted to introduce myself and discuss some of the activities of the Board and of the Executive. I began my term a little prematurely, serving as Secretary at the Board and Executive meetings and at the Annual General Meeting held at the University of Western Ontario in May/June 2006. In the usual SSC meeting schedule, the Board meeting is held on the day before the scientific meeting begins, while the Executive meets on the previous evening. These meetings continue on the last day, usually starting at supper, with the Board meeting first, followed by the Executive meeting. The Annual General Meeting is held usually on the second day of the conference, prior to the banquet.

The Board also regularly meets over a weekend in October, with the 2006 meeting having been held in Ottawa at the Lord Elgin Hotel. The Executive meets regularly over the year. In September 2006 we met for a day at the Fields Institute in Toronto, and of course met twice in conjunction with the Board meeting in October. Since then we have met by telephone conference once every month except for December. Our last telephone conference meeting prior to the St. John's conference was held in May. Of course the whole cycle of meetings began again with our recent meeting in St. John's. In addition to these meetings, two e-mail votes were held on recommendations from the Awards Committee. The Board voted on Honorary Membership and the Executive on the Gold Medal and the Distinguished Service Award.

There has been some level of dissatisfaction with the telephone conferencing format, and Charmaine Dean, Peter MacDonald and I spent some time experimenting with various types of web based video conferencing.

One of the priorities of this year has been to streamline and update procedures and information dissemination to the members. To that end we are in the process of revising our Annual SSC Calendar which describes the schedule of tasks which must be followed by various executive members, appointed officials and committee chairs. We are also harmonizing the printed SSC Handbook contents with what appears on the SSC website, with the goal of retaining only a web version. We are also in the process of restructuring the shape of the Executive Committee, as well as updating several of the procedures of the Society. Many of these changes will require amendments to our by-laws, a process which will ultimately require the approval of the SSC members at the Society's Annual General Meeting. Finally, at its recent meeting, the Board approved the suggestion that all Board and Annual General Meeting minutes, along with accompanying reports, be posted on the SSC website. This website will be set up this summer.

Report of the Past-President

Charmaine Dean (Simon Fraser University)

The SSC 07 Annual Meeting was a resounding success with a rich scientific program and superb Newfoundland cultural activities. Brajendra Sutradhar, John Braun and Christian Léger truly did a fantastic job; the community is very grateful to them for the diligence, creativeness and the striking enthusiasm with which the meeting was organized. I, and many others, took the opportunity to visit a few historic sites in or near St. John's after the meeting. On one memorable occasion, I could see breathtaking icebergs making thunderous noises as they split apart close to the shore. Newfoundland has
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.

SSC Liaison
577 King Edward Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
KIN 6N5
Telephone: (613) 562-5320
Fax: (613) 565-6774
Email: admin@ssc.ca
Web Site: www.ssc.ca

The rates below are for camera-ready copy and are given in Canadian funds. Typesetting is available at a charge of $40 per quarter page. French-English and English-French translation are available at $0.25 per word. The Position Vacant ad must not exceed a quarter page, and we reserve the right to edit it to ensure compliance with this restriction and as recognition of this constraint, the charge for typesetting this type of ad is included in the cost.

For an additional fee of $50, your Position Vacant ad will also appear on the Job Ads page of the SSC web site. For arrangements, please contact: mr.mesentery@gmail.com

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great beauty and it was a privilege to be able to host the meeting there and engage in research discussions with colleagues from all across Canada in that special environment.

NSERC brought important news to the community at the Newfoundland meeting. With the rising number of new applicants, the funding portfolio for statistics has been under strain. Discussions on strategies for handling this are underway and an NSERC Statistics Liaison committee will be constructed to create direct lines of communication with our community. One of the first tasks of this committee will be to help create a vision of the ideal system for the Discovery Grants program. I would welcome and encourage comments you may have to offer on this topic. You will hear more about this committee shortly.

On other occasions I have mentioned in Liaison the construction of two SSC Ad Hoc Committees for 06-07: the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities, led by Nancy Heckman with membership François Bellavance, David Brillinger, Angelo Canty, Paul Gustafson, Mary Lesperance, David Hamilton, Jim Ramsay and Román Viveros-Aguilera; and the Ad Hoc Committee on New Investigators, headed by Peter Song and with membership Laura Cowen, Yulia Gel, Matias Salibian-Barrera, Tulay Koru-Sengul and Russell Steele. The report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities is substantial and a summary is provided elsewhere in this issue of Liaison. Recommendations regarding the annual meetings will be implemented, as feasible, at the SSC 09 meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee on New Investigators expressed strong enthusiasm for the establishment of a continuing SSC committee to coordinate activities for new investigators in Canada. Some ideas in this regard are the creation of websites with information on regional activities, teaching resources, funding sources beyond NSERC and CIHR, for example, MITACS; opportunities for mentorship beyond that at their own universities, and particularly with senior researchers whose research expertise meshes with theirs; activities at the SSC Annual Meeting which focus on new investigators, and activities which link isolated new investigators with the broader community. We expect to continue working with this committee over the coming year to consolidate how best we can support new researchers in our community.

We have several new accredited members to bring the total to 101 P.Stat. members and 12 A.Stat. members; all of our A.Stat. members have been matched with a mentor. In addition, at the June Board meeting a motion was passed which instructs the Accreditation Committee to approve courses from universities to be used for facilitating the adjudication of applications for A.Stat. and report to the Board on such approvals. This will speed the work of accrediting applications from graduates of our universities. The Accreditation Committee can now focus on how best to provide service to its members and Carl Schwarz, the Chair of the Accreditation Committee, will consult with the community on the sorts of activities which would be useful, including connections with activities of interest to new investigators.

We have been exploring more effective electronic means of communication, beyond teleconferencing and email, amongst members of the Executive and committees in order to improve the quality of electronic communication and networking within the Society. Successful strategies would also be useful for individuals in our membership involved in the coordination of large national professional and research projects. They are also important for encouraging technologies for meetings that will reduce our existing use of energy systems that emit greenhouse gases. For example, our SSC Executive meets monthly with typically four face-to-face meetings per year -- reducing the number of face-to-face meetings through the use of effective electronic technologies would be a useful step. The results of this investigation would also enhance communication for other committees. We seek input from those with expertise in this area of communication.

It has been a great pleasure working for the SSC over the past year. Our Society
has an enthusiastic team of volunteers, full of good ideas for change and growth, as well as a solid core of long-term, hardworking colleagues, including various past Presidents, who are dedicated to making the discipline thrive. I would like to thank all the committee chairs, section presidents, office staff and most especially, the “Extended Executive Committee”, consisting of the Executive Committee, the Program Coordinator, the Electronic Services Manager and the Office Coordinator, who have provided immense service over the year to enrich the Society. We all look forward to superb progress of the Society under Christian Genest’s leadership.

Report of the Previous Past-President

David Binder

Having now completed my three-year term on the Executive Committee, I would like to reminisce a little about how much has been accomplished by the SSC over that period.

It is clear to me that our Society depends very heavily on volunteer time, and we have been very fortunate that, in spite of people’s very busy schedules, we have had so many willing to give their time to help us to meet our goals and to improve our Society. Our members are truly indebted to those who have served and who continue to serve our Society in many ways. I should mention that it is not necessary to make a large time commitment to have a significant impact on the Society.

First among our accomplishments during the three-year period would be the transition to our new Office. In December 2004 we began a new relationship with the Canadian Mathematical Society (CMS) to look after our affairs. Our contract with CMS included a number of tasks, including responding to enquiries, looking after all of our needs related to our Membership database and processing membership applications and renewals, providing financial services, coordinating our Elections, preparing Press Releases and other materials for our Awards, providing the many administrative services related to our Accreditation Program, and providing E-mail and Web Site Services, and a number of other tasks. From the autumn of 2004 to the present day, all of our SSC Presidents have been quite busy ensuring that our requirements were being met. Hopefully, we will be reducing the hands-on involvement of our future Presidents, now that our policies and practices are better understood.

A second significant accomplishment would be the progress we have seen in our Accreditation Program. The Board has debated this Program for a number of years, and I am confident that we now have a program that will bode well for the Society. Many experienced statisticians have taken the step to be accredited as P.Stats. Our students can also apply for accreditation as A.Stats. Universities have taken an interest in having their courses recognized as partially fulfilling the educational requirements. We also have a mentoring program. There is still much we want to do to better serve our accredited statisticians, and work is proceeding along these lines.

Starting in 2007-2008, we are introducing a number of new SSC Awards. This process began when a Board member suggested we consider this. A Committee was struck to set some guidelines for some new awards and the Awards Committee has proposed a mechanism for how these can be introduced. Under the newly expanded regime, the SSC will have the following suite of awards: Gold Medal, Honorary Membership, Distinguished Service Award, CRMSCC Award, a new award to recognize the impact of applied and collaborative work, Pierre Robillard Award, CJS Best Paper Award, Case Studies Award, Student Presentation Award, AUSCan Scholar Award, and Lise Manchester Award, Student Travel Awards. As well, there are a number of awards associated with the SSC at universities that had previously hosted our annual meetings. For example, the University of Western Ontario, who hosted our 2006 meetings, has an SSC scholarship to help fund presenting students’ attendance at the SSC Annual Meeting and/or at the Joint Statistical Meetings.

For most members, our Annual Meeting is the central focus for the year. Through our Program Committee, we have made a number of changes to help ensure that these meetings run more smoothly. This includes better informing our presenters of our meetings policies regarding travel reimbursements and registration fees. We also have a Bilingualism Prize to encourage submission of bilingual abstracts. We have instituted an online registration system through the CMS Office. Countless hours have already been spent in preparing for our mega-meeting to be held jointly with the Société française de statistique in Ottawa in 2008. Our meetings in Saskatoon, London and St. John’s were all grand successes, thanks not only to the able leadership of the Program and Local Arrangements Chairs, but also to the excellent scientific content of the papers presented.

One of the goals of our Society is to promote statistical education in Canada. One of our recent initiatives in this regard has been to give more support to Local Science Fairs for students at the pre-university level. This is in addition to our longstanding support for the Youth Science Fair being run by the Youth Science Foundation.

Another important goal of the Society is to enhance statistical research in Canada. We have taken some initiatives to help new researchers. We have also been working with NSERC explaining how our discipline is unique among science disciplines, not only because of its impact on other sciences, but also because of the way our research is nurtured at universities.

The above very brief summary is just a snippet of the many activities of our Society. Our website continues to evolve and provide information on our activities. Many of the pages on our website are now maintained by our Committees.
SSC Pierre Robillard Award Awarded to Dr. Mylène Bédard

Dr. Bédard received her BSc from the Université Laval in 2001 before moving to Toronto and receiving her MSc in 2002 and PhD in 2006. She is now a research fellow working within the Centre for Research in Statistical Methodology at the University of Warwick in Coventry, England. She will soon join the Département de mathématiques et de statistique at the Université de Montréal, where she has been appointed Assistant Professor. There she will continue her work on the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm and Markov chain Monte Carlo methods in general.

SSC Gold Medal Awarded to Professor Don L. McLeish

Professor McLeish has been outstanding researcher in probability and statistics throughout his career. His early work was on the asymptotic theory of martingales and in 1975 he originated the idea of mixingales which has had a great impact on a wide range of applications of probability and statistics. Professor McLeish has also been very active in the area of statistical inference and estimating functions. In 1988 and 1994 he and Professor Christopher Small published two books on this topic which are still widely cited. In recent years, Professor McLeish has been interested in quantitative finance and in 2005 published a book on Monte Carlo Methods in Finance which has been very well received.

Professor McLeish has been extremely productive in his research publishing 38 refereed papers as well as three books and scores of invited presentations. He has also supervised over 50 graduate students. His research has been continuously supported by NSERC since 1974 and he chaired the NSERC Statistical Sciences grant selection committee in 1982-1983. In 1983 Professor
SSC Honorary Membership Awarded to Professor Agnes M. Herzberg

Professor Agnes M. Herzberg was named an Honorary Member of the Statistical Society of Canada at the annual meetings in St. Johns. Professor Herzberg obtained her PhD from the University of Saskatchewan, she spent her early career in the Department of Mathematics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and more recently in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Queen's University where she is currently a Professor Emeritus. Professor Herzberg has a long and distinguished record of research in experimental design and applied statistics. In the 1960’s and 1970’s she was at the forefront of research on rotatable response surface designs. Professor Herzberg also contributed extensively to the theory of optimal experimental design. In the past two decades, Professor Herzberg has made substantial contributions in areas such as model selection, robust designs and experimental design for medical experiments.

Other very notable activities conducted by Professor Herzberg include Editor for 26 years of Short Book Reviews, a publication of the International Statistical Institute and also serving as an Associate Editor of both the Annals of Statistics and Biometrika. She established and maintains an annual conference on Statistics, Science and Public Policy at Herstmonceux Castle in the United Kingdom. Professor Herzberg has also had a long history in the Statistical Society of Canada, serving on many committees over the years and most notably as President of the Society in 1991-1992. In 1999, she was awarded the SSC Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her long and excellent service to the Society and to the development of the statistical sciences in Canada.

Canadian Journal of Statistics Award Awarded to Angelo Canty, Anthony Davison, David Hinkley and Valérie Ventura

The Canadian Journal of Statistics Award, for the best paper published in the journal for 2006 was awarded to Angelo Canty, Anthony Davison, David Hinkley and Valérie Ventura for their paper “Bootstrap Diagnostics and Remedies”. Bootstrap techniques are popular, flexible tools that statisticians use to quantify uncertainty in estimation procedures. These methods are applied in many areas from the analysis of data arising from cancer studies to modeling insurance claims. However, bootstrap techniques require certain mathematical assumptions to be met in order for the computed quantities to be valid and reliable. Because this paper provides fast and simple procedures for checking some of these assumptions, the methods will be quickly incorporated into the toolboxes of many statisticians.

Dr. Canty is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at McMaster University; Dr. Davison is a Professor of Statistics at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland; Dr. Hinkley is a Professor of Statistics in the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Dr. Ventura is a Research Associate Professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.
SSC Distinguished Service Award Awarded to Professor Brajendra Sutradhar

The 2007 SSC Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Professor Brajendra Sutradhar in recognition of his contributions to the Society and in particular its annual meetings. Professor Sutradhar obtained his PhD from the University of Western Ontario in 1984 and then joined the faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Memorial University of Newfoundland. In 2004, he was awarded the rank of University Research Professor in recognition of his outstanding contributions to research in statistics particularly in the areas of longitudinal data analysis, generalized linear mixed models and modeling using multivariate t distributions. Over his career, Professor Sutradhar has published over 80 papers in refereed journals and has supervised or is currently supervising 24 graduate students. He was made an elected member of the International Statistical Institute in 1991 and an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2006.

Professor Sutradhar’s service to the SSC and statistics goes back 18 years since he was the Local Arrangements Chair for the 1990 Annual Meeting of the Society in St. John’s. His service to the annual meetings continues today as he is again the Local Arrangements Chair for the 2007 Annual Meeting. In the intervening years, he has spent many years on the Program Committee and was the Chair of that committee from 2002-2005. He has also served as the Program Chair for the 1997 Annual Meeting in Fredericton. Other service to statistics and the Society includes serving as a regional representative on the SSC Board of Directors for 4 years, as an associate editor of The Canadian Journal of Statistics for 6 years and membership of the NSERC Grant Selection Committee for statistics.

Report of the 2007 Elections

David Binder (2006-2007 Chair of the Elections Committee)

2007 Election

Executive Committee
President-Elect
Román Viveros-Aguilera
Treasurer
Edward J. Chen

Regional Representatives
Atlantic Provinces (one to be elected)
Hugh Chipman
Quebec (two to be elected)
François Bellavance
Hélène Bérard
Ontario (two to be elected)
Gerarda Darlington
Jeanette O’Hara-Hines
Manitoba-Saskatchewan-NWT (one to be elected)
Lisa M. Lix
Alberta-B.C.-Yukon (one to be elected)
Mary Lesperance

Biostatistics Section
President Elect
Subash R. Lele
Secretary
Karen A. Kopciuk
Treasurer
Lehana Thabane

Business and Industrial Statistics Section
President Elect
Smiley Cheng
Secretary
Shirley Mills

Probability Section
President
Edit Gombay
President Elect
Bruno Rémillard
Secretary
Richard Lockhart

Survey Methods Section
President Elect
Julie Trépanier
Secretary
Cynthia Bocci

In 2007, the members of the Election Committee were David Binder, Michael Escobar, François Pageau, Nancy Heckman, Rhonda Rosychuk, Wei Sun, and Patricia Whitridge.
New P.Stat. and A.Stat. of the SSC

It is with great pleasure that the Board of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) awarded the P.Stat. or A.Stat. designation to the following individuals (pictures and autobiographical sketches supplied by candidates):

P.Stat. 092: ABDOLELL, Mohamed

Ph.D. 2008 Toronto (expected)
M.Sc. 1995 Biostatistics, Toronto
B.Sc. 1991 Statistics and Applied Math, Toronto

Assistant Professor, Dalhousie University.

I graduated with an M.Sc. in 1995 from the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto, with a specialization in Biostatistics; my thesis topic was “Poisson Regression Trees”. I obtained my B.Sc. degree from the U of T with a double major in Statistics and Applied Mathematics, and a minor in Computer Sciences.

I have been employed in the clinical research setting for 12 years, primarily in hospital-based research groups/institutes, and have provided statistical support, closely collaborated with, mentored, and taught many medical faculty, fellows, residents, and students; I have also done the same with numerous graduate students in allied health fields, including membership on thesis committees. For much of my working career I have concurrently held academic affiliations that have enabled me to lecture at the undergraduate and graduate level. I have derived particular satisfaction teaching graduate biostatistics students how to tackle real-world problems through interaction with medical/health sciences researchers.

I am currently an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University, in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology, and have several research interests: [1] developing a web-based research methods curriculum for the Dalhousie radiology residency program that fills the educational void in research methods that exists for medical students and residents who may not be pursuing research careers but who nevertheless require sound research methodology training to enable proficiency in critical review of the medical literature for sound evidence-based medical practice, with the ultimate intention of rolling out nationally to all radiology residency programs; [2] developing more accurate diagnostic classifiers using modern data mining algorithms incorporating both diagnostic image features and clinical information; [3] developing automated surveillance systems in medical/health sciences settings incorporating Geographical Information Systems and Statistical Process Control methods.

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P.Stat. 093: AL-KHALIDI, Abdul Sattar

Ph.D. 1978 Statistics, Texas A&M
M.Sc. 1975 Statistics, Texas A&M
B.Sc. 1968 Mathematics, Baghdad University, Iraq

Senior Statistician, Insurance Bureau of Canada

Duties: Build statistical models to predict frequencies and severities of insurance claims from vehicles characteristics. Design, develop, test, implement and maintain all SAS programs, and macros, needed to incorporate all findings into production quality maintenance systems, and implementing Monte Carlo and Boot Strapping techniques in order to determine the credible sample size of vehicle that is sufficient for a predetermined level of reliable prediction. Plus providing statistical advisories needed for research by various departments in the company.

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P.Stat. 094: ASTATKIE, Tessema

Ph.D. 1994 Statistics, Queen's
M.Sc. 1986 Statistics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
B.Sc. 1983 Statistics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Professor, Nova Scotia Agricultural College

I have been learning and practicing statistics since I took my first course in 1980 at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. I moved to Canada in 1990 to do my Ph.D. at Queen's University, and have been working at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) as the only statistician since 1994, and was promoted to full professor in 2003. I have been actively pursuing my individual and collaborative research that resulted in several papers published in 26 different scientific journals. I also provided statistical consulting service to all NSAC graduate students and faculty members. Working at this agricultural college gave me an excellent opportunity to promote statistics in agriculture and environment related education and research.

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P.Stat. 095: CHAGNON, Miguel

M.Sc. 1994 Statistics, Université de Montréal
B.Sc. 1993 Mathematics, Université de Montréal

Consulting Service in Quantitative Methods of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the Université de Montréal
I hold a B.Sc. (1993) in Mathematics and a M.Sc. (1994) in Statistics from the Université de Montréal. Presently, I am working as a professional consultant at the Consulting Service in Quantitative Methods of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the Université de Montréal. My role is to offer statistical expertise to all researchers of the university community and also to participate to the teaching of graduate students in statistics. The projects in which I participate are very different, as much by their origin as by their complexity. In some projects, I just give advice on a protocol, on the choice of a sample size or I just validate a proposed or already applied statistical approach; other projects imply completing all analyses and participating in the production of a scientific paper. Since 2003, I work also as a lecturer in the same department. My research interests are biostatistics and psychometry.

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P.Stat. 096:
CRÉPEAU, Hélène

M.Sc. 1983 Statistics, UBC
B.Sc. 1978 Actuarial Science, Université Laval

I worked as a consultant at the Statistical Consulting Service, Université Laval since October 1985. I act as a consultant for people coming to SCS. My work consists of giving advice on the design of their experiment or their surveys, on the statistical methods to be used in their work and often of doing the complete analysis of their data. Together with my consulting work, I manage the SCS and I collaborate with statistics professors of the Department to supervise third-year undergraduate students in statistics and graduate students working at SCS.

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P.Stat. 097:
ELKUM, Naser, B

Ph.D. 1997 Statistics, Queen’s University
M.Sc. 1989 Statistics, Tripoli University
B.Sc. 1982 Statistics, Tripoli University

King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center

Dr. Elkum earned a Ph.D. degree in statistics from Queen’s University, Canada. Subsequently, he worked as a manager of biostatistics and data management department at Pharma Medica Research Inc. He is currently working as a scientist at King Faisal Hospital & Research Centre.

Dr. Elkum is a research methodologist with research interests in the development and application of statistical methods to health research. His research interests cover a wide spectrum of research areas including design and analysis of RCTs; generalized linear/nonlinear mixed effects models; failure time data; statistical methods in epidemiology and cancer; Bayesian and non-Bayesian inference and statistical consulting.

Dr. Elkum collaborates with researchers in cardiology, internal medicine, urology, oncology, pathology and health technology assessment. He provides statistical leadership in studies in various areas of population health research, clinical research and health services and outcomes research.

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P.Stat. 098:
MIDODZI, William, K

Ph.D. 2009 Biostatistics, Alberta
M.Sc. 2000 Biostatistics, Alberta

William Midodzi is a bio-statistician currently working with the Epidemiology Coordinating and Research Centre (EPICORE) at the University of Alberta, Canada. My areas of interest include clinical trials and application of multi-level modeling, structural equation modeling (SEM), and bootstrap statistical methods in the analysis of population health data.

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I received my B.Sc. and M.Sc. mathematics education at the University of Science and Technology (UST), Ghana, and training in M.Sc. Biostatistics at the University of Alberta, Canada.

Since 2001, I have worked with various research groups at the University of Alberta including the VIGOUR clinical trial research unit at the Department of Medicine, the KUSP research unit at the Faculty of Nursing. Within this period, I have as well been a student in the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta where currently, I am near the completion of my Ph.D. dissertation in Medical Science-Public Health Sciences (epidemiology). Between 2002- 2006, I completed a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funded strategic training program in Public Health and Agricultural Rural Ecosystem (PHARE) at the Institute of Rural and Environmental Health (IARE) H) at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

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P.Stat. 099:
NETTEL-AGUIRRE, Alberto

Ph.D. 2005 Statistics, Calgary
M.Sc. 1999 Statistics, Calgary

Research associate, Paediatrics Department Research Methods, U. Calgary.

I received my B.Sc. in Applied Math from ITAM (Mexico), my M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Statistics from University of Calgary; held a 1 year postdoctoral fellowship with Hugh Chipman in 2005 working on graph data and social networks. Throughout my grad school years I was a joint consultant and then assistant director of “Statistical Consulting and Research” (StatCaR) lab at University of Calgary. My interests have been varied: Consulting, Point processes, Stereology, Functional Data analysis, Biostatistics, Statistical Learning and Data Mining. I am currently working at the Alberta Children’s hospital for the Paediatrics department as part of the Research Methods team as a consultant and research associate, hence I have focused more in Biostatistics with interests in Neonatology, Injury prevention and learning on missing data techniques.

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P.Stat. 100:
THOMSON, Barbara A.

M.S. 1990 Applied Math and Stat, State University of New York
B.S. 1972 Mathematics, University of Illinois at Chicago

Research Associate with the Statistical Consulting Service, Statistics, University of Toronto.

Barbara Thomson has a B.S. degree in Mathematics Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an M.S. degree in Statistics (1990) from the Department of Statistics at the University of Toronto.

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P.Stat. 101:
XU, Wei

Ph.D. 2006 Biostatistics, Toronto
M.Sc. 2003 Statistics, Dalhousie

Assistant Professor in Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto; Senior Biostatistician in Department of Biostatistics, Princess Margaret Hospital, University of Toronto

Wei Xu received a Ph.D. in Biostatistics, University of Toronto; M.Sc. in Statistics, Dalhousie University; He is currently employed as an Assistant Professor in Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto and a Senior Biostatistician in Department of Biostatistics, Princess Margaret Hospital, University of Toronto. His focus is on research in statistical genetics, clinical trial data analysis and data mining.

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A.Stat. 009:
DAVIS, Karelyn A.

Ph.D. 2009 Statistics, Carleton
M.Sc. 2004 Statistics, Memorial
B.Sc. 2002 Mathematics, Memorial

I am currently employed as a methodologist with Statistics Canada and my primary focus is directed towards education and justice related surveys. While working at Statistics Canada, I am completing a Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics at Carleton University. My doctoral research pertains to generalized linear and mixed models under constrained inference with application to longitudinal data with missing values. Prior to commencing doctoral studies, I completed a Master of Science in Statistics and a Bachelor of Science Joint Honours in Pure Mathematics and Statistics at Memorial University of Newfoundland. My master’s research studied order restricted inference with application to pharmaceutical studies. I have been a member of the Statistical Society of Canada since 2002.

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A.Stat. 010:
ISMAILA, Afisi Segun

Ph.D. 2008 Biostatistics, McMaster
M.Sc. 2004 Statistics, McMaster
B.Sc. 1999 Math & Stats, University of Lagos, Nigeria

McMaster University Teaching Assistant

I am currently completing my Doctoral degree in Health Research Methodology (Biostatistics specialty) at McMaster University under the supervision of Prof. Stephen Walter.

Afisi Segun Ismaila

I finished my M.Sc. Statistics from McMaster University under the supervision of Dr. Angelo Canty. My Bachelor Degree
was in Mathematics and Statistics (combined honours) from University of Lagos in Nigeria. My research interest includes clinical trial methodology, meta-analysis, spatial statistics, applied statistics, Bayesian methods, and health measurement instruments development and validation. I am an accredited member (GradStat status) of the Royal Statistical Society of UK. I am also a member of the Statistical Society of Canada; American Statistical Association; Institute of Mathematical Statistics; International Biometric Society-Eastern North American Region; Society for Epidemiologic Research; and International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology.

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A.Stat. 011: SUN, Jing

M.Sc. 2006 Statistics, York
B.Sc. 2004 Statistics, York
B.Sc. 1992 Computer Science, Tianjin Normal University

System Administrator, Canadian Mental Health Association

I have a M.Sc. degree in Statistics, and an honours degree in Information Technology and Statistics. During my graduate study, I have served as a statistical consultant, and finished the survey paper “Parallel Computing and Statistics”. In addition, I have finished several statistical projects. In these projects, I have integrated statistical thinking and statistical computing. I have attended statistical workshops and seminars in order to keep myself skilled at methodological advances in statistics. I also have strong communication and interpersonal skills for dealing with diverse clientele and levels of staff.

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A.Stat. 012: WOOLFORD, Douglas G.

Ph.D. 2007 Statistics, Western Ontario
M.Math 2002 Statistics, Waterloo

B.Sc. 2001 Statistics, Western Ontario

Post-Doc, School of Forestry, University of Toronto

Douglas Woolford received both his B.Sc.(Hon) in Statistics and Actuarial Science, and his Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Western Ontario. He received his M.Math in Statistics from the University of Waterloo, after which he spent a year as a lecturer, teaching at both Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo. Currently, Doug is at the University of Toronto where he is an NPCDS/GEOIDE Postdoctoral Fellow working for The Forests, Fires and Stochastic Modelling Project. His research interests include environmental statistics, spatial-temporal modelling, point-processes and applied probability. Doug has been a member of the SSC since 2005.

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**SSC New Awards**

Nancy Reid (University of Toronto; 2006-2007 Chair of the Awards Committee)

At the June Board meeting the Awards Committee brought forward recommendations for four new awards, which were all approved by the Board. The new awards and brief descriptions are given below: full details are in the minutes of the Board meeting.

A call for nominations for the first two awards will appear in the October issue of Liaison. More details on the case studies and student presentation awards will appear with preliminary announcements for the Annual Meeting.

The Lise Manchester Award

The purpose of the award is to commemorate the late Dr. Lise Manchester’s abiding interest in the relevance of statistics to society at large. The award will be given to the author or authors of a scholarly work that makes use of ‘state of the art’ statistical methods to provide novel insights into situations, past, present, or future, that are of societal interest and potentially useful for formation of public policy, in a Canadian context. This award will be given every second year, with the first award to be presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting. The proposal and the funding for this award come from Derek Manchester, and the Society is very grateful to him for this.

The “Impact” Award

This award is as yet unnamed!, feel free to submit suggestions to Nancy Reid, reid@utstat.utoronto.ca. This award is to recognize outstanding contributions by SSC members in collaborative research and applied work, the importance of which derives primarily from its relatively recent impact on a subject area outside of the statistical sciences, on an area of application, or on an organization.

Awards for Case Studies in Data Analysis

These awards are intended to raise the profile of data analysis within our Society, to recognize the relevance of collaboration with other disciplines as significant contributions of statistical scientists, to encourage students to participate in these activities, and to recognize excellence among the student teams participating in the Case Studies in Data Analysis event at the SSC Annual Meeting. All participating teams that give poster presentations of their case study analysis will be considered for the awards. It is intended that one award be given for each of the two case studies, unless there is a large imbalance in the number of entries for each case study. The poster sessions will be
The SSC Student Presentation Award
The purpose of this award is to provide an opportunity for recognition of outstanding student contributions to the Annual Meeting. It will be awarded to a contributed paper presented by a student or students, judged on the basis of quality of the presentation and quality of the underlying research. Students wishing to be considered for the award must submit a short summary of their research four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting; the talks will be adjudicated during the meeting and the awards announced in Liaison following the meeting.

Restructuring of the Awards Committee
To accommodate the new awards, and rationalize our various award committees and subcommittees, a new structure for the Awards Committee was approved by the Board at its June meeting.

The newly structured Awards Committee would oversee all the society’s awards, and provide guidelines as needed on new awards or changes to existing awards.

The Awards Committee would also serve as the selection committee for the Gold Medal, Impact Award, Honorary Membership and Distinguished Service Award.

Selection of all other awards would be done by a number of selection committees. Selection committee chairs would serve as either voting or ex-officio members of the Awards Committee.

REPORTS

Report from the Ad-hoc Committee on Priorities
Nancy Heckman (University of British Columbia; Chair of the Ad-hoc Committee on Priorities)

Members: Francois Bellavance, David Brillinger, Angelo Canty, Paul Gustafson, David Hamilton, Mary Lesperance, Jim Ramsay, Frances van den Enden, Roman Viveros-Aguilera, Nancy Heckman (Chair)

The Committee was asked to provide recommendations concerning the Annual Meeting, Society sections, and publications. At the 2007 Annual Meeting, our recommendations were approved. We thank all who helped in this process, providing us with information and feedback, including those responding to a d-ssc mail request, the Board, the Program Secretary, past Editors, and current Section Presidents. Some of our recommendations complement those of the New Investigators group.

Annual Meetings
In general, people felt that the annual meetings are successful and often delightful. Several people said that the SSC annual meeting was the best “all-purpose” meeting they attend. However, some respondents mentioned that we tend to see the same speakers, that more diversity would be good, and that smaller universities seem underrepresented. Some respondents said the quality of research presented could be higher. It’s not clear how common these feelings are.

Our sense is that the annual meeting is working well, but we can always improve. We discussed ways to make the intellectual exchange livelier, and ways to make the large number of concurrent sessions more coherent and manageable for conference-goers.

Many of the invited sessions are planned by Sections. The Program Chair and the Section Presidents should work together in planning, to avoid unintentional overlap in topics, and to create some joint sessions of common interest. To further encourage interaction on areas of common interest, the planners should consider different types of sessions such as panel sessions and round table discussions. We recommended that the number of invited sessions per section not be increased, and that the overall number of invited sessions be reduced where possible.

The budget for speakers should be used in a more concentrated way rather than spread evenly across sessions. For instance, the budget could be used to fund travel for plenary-type high profile speakers or joint invited sessions.

The Annual Meeting should make better use of invited and contributed poster sessions. With many concurrent sessions, a participant sometimes must choose between two or more concurrent talks. Replacing or even supplementing talks with poster presentations would reduce the number of missed presentations. In addition, poster sessions allow for a more intimate and stimulating interaction among researchers. We recognized that increasing the number of poster presentations is challenging so we provided several ideas to facilitate this.

We could not address some issues without a properly conducted survey. So we recommended that the Society conduct a survey of attendees at the meeting, regarding quality and quantity of various types of sessions, time of year of meeting, and length of meeting.

We do not recommend limiting contributed sessions as they provide a forum for discussion of all research. We do not recommend refereeing any sessions - the work involved is too great. The Society should continue to encourage interaction with subject areas by having sessions with scientists presenting and/or discussing. Meetings should include activities as recommended in the New Investigators report.

Sections
Each Section should have a d-ssc type mail address with an up-to-date list of section members. We understand that this is already underway.

Publications: Liaison
Liaison’s communications role should be expanded to include a student section, a teaching section, and material of interest to A.Stats. and P.Stats. The latter could include profiles of A.Stats. or...
**Reports**

P.Stats., information on mentoring and being mentored. This material should be determined in consultation with the Accreditation Committee.

Liaison’s student section would contain announcements, news and articles on topics such as job interview preparation and approaches to research from a student perspective.

Teaching concerns about half of the SSC members. A teaching section would facilitate communication among those teaching statistics, particularly at the undergraduate level, and would provide information to them. Work here should be done in consultation with the Education Committee.

We recommended that Liaison continue to send hard copies to members and to post on the SSC website. To move to only e-versions of Liaison would necessitate proper consultation with the SSC membership. Since the May issue is typically slim, the May issue should be expanded with material on teaching and students or, if this is not feasible, on a trial basis, publication of the May issue should be replaced by e-mail and web-posting of any important material.

**Publications: CJS**

While the Journal contains articles of high intellectual content, the Journal’s impact in guiding statistical practice could be raised.

We recommended that Associate Editors and Sections be more pro-active. For instance, the Probability Section could, in consultation with the Editor, solicit an article written by a high-profile researcher in an area relevant to statistics.

The Journal should be used occasionally to highlight research areas where Canadians are particularly active. This could be accomplished via a review article or a discussion paper or special section.

We also recommended that the Journal should try to have an international group of Associate Editors.

**Miscellaneous Comments**

The Society is made up of more than its meetings, its Sections and its publications. We discussed other aspects of the Society, making the following recommendations.

The SSC should facilitate the offering of professional development courses and workshops, best done regionally. The Society should take a more active role in the promotion of collaborative research, possibly through the annual meeting. The President should be provided with more support. Currently, the President is the main point of contact for all Society information. Freeing the President from mundane duties allows for more time for leadership activities, thus bringing the Society into more prominence. The Society, through the President, should comment on national and international issues that have a substantial statistical component, and should promote areas of importance to statistical research—e.g. active support of software development.

We made some recommendations concerning the web site, which has been wonderfully maintained. We proposed a possible update of the graphics design and layout, inclusion of more promotional type material to appeal to non-members and listing of Proceedings under publications.

We also recommend that the Society should work to include under-represented groups in Society business and meetings.

**NPCDS: What’s New?**

*James Stafford (University of Toronto; NPCDS Director)*

The National Program on Complex Data Structures is entering its last year of funding running at full capacity. Projects in Forestry, Marine Ecology, Genomics, Data Mining, Computer Experiments, Survey Methods, Biomedicine, and Climatology, plus multiple intensive training events have tapped out its resources and a major effort to renew the program with substantially increased resources is well under way.

It is a testament to our community that such a diverse array of scientific activity could have been established in so short a period of time. In that time the NPCDS has developed a vision as a powerful new model of quantitative research for the advancement of the environmental, health, and social sciences. This vision is borne of a conviction that only quantitative leadership can advance research frontiers in many disciplines and thus the NPCDS has identified its mission as three-fold:

1. To create interdisciplinary research teams with quantitative leadership
2. To create new interdisciplinary training environments for quantitative researchers
3. To engender a revolution in the culture of multiple disciplines that depend on quantitative research

These are lofty objectives but they pale in comparison to the importance of increasing the participatory nature of the NPCDS and our community’s access of the wealth of opportunities the NPCDS provides.

It was with this in mind that the NPCDS leadership met for one week in Banff to plan renewal of the program as a National Institute for our discipline. Inclusiveness was the guiding principle. Opportunities abound but major highlights include: the evolution of particular projects into truly national networks; an enhanced collaboration with international institutes like SAMSI and EURANDOM that is aimed at being widely participatory; a proven track record that each NPCDS dollar is being matched twice; the evolution of NPCDS as a potent political voice for our community in dialogues with CIHR, NSERC, PHAC and so on. Renewal is then focused on enhancing these opportunities; identifying NPCDS along thematic lines in the environmental, health and social sciences while recognizing that methodological pillars cut across these themes and offer opportunity for the involvement of basic methodologists; and substantially increased participation. The latter is certainly commensurate with available resources and thus renewal aims at substantially enhancing NPCDS as a resource for networking in our community. Building collegiality beyond what currently exists means that, for example, planned annual meetings
of the NPCDS would neither compete, nor interfere, with the annual SSC meeting, but rather enhance this meeting by offering the NPCDS annual meeting as a satellite event.

Over the next few months NPCDS renewal planning will intensify and opportunities to influence the outcome of this process are available. This includes a general invitation to become involved announced on our listserv, presentations of renewal planning at the SSC in Newfoundland and the direct involvement of all Chairs/Directors of Statistical programs.

News from the Fields Institute

Carl Riehm (McMaster University; Fields Managing Editor for Publications)

Distinguished Lecture Series in Statistical Science
The DLSSS, established in 2000, takes place annually and consists of two lectures at the Fields Institute (one general, one specialized) by an internationally prominent statistical scientist. A nominating committee solicits nominations from the Canadian statistical community, and makes a recommendation to the Fields Scientific Advisory Panel which is responsible for the selection of speakers.

The past year’s speaker was Elizabeth Thompson (University of Washington). Her lectures were entitled “Latent Variables, Uncertainty and Evidence” and “Uncertainty in Inheritance and the Detection of Genetic Linkage”.

The next speaker will be Persi Diaconis, the Mary V. Sunseri Professor of Statistics and Mathematics at Stanford. His lectures, entitled “Mathematics and Magic Tricks”, will take place on September 27-28, 2007.

Nominations for the next speaker in the DLSSS, including a letter of support and CV, should reach our Director: Professor Barbara Lee Keyfitz, Director Fields Institute 222 College Street Toronto, Ontario M5T 3J1 CANADA or e-mail to: director@fields.utoronto.ca by October 1st, 2007.

Seminar Series of the Fields Centre for Mathematical Medicine
One recent talk involving statistical techniques was given by Dr. Vladimir Iakovlev, MD, FRCPC, of the University Health Network. It was entitled “Sampling Error and Development of Sampling Strategies for Biological Tissues”. The audio and slides of his seminar are available at www.fields.utoronto.ca/audio/06-07/CMM_seminars/iaakovlev.

Future talks, as well as links to the audio and slides of recent past talks, are at www.fields.utoronto.ca/programs/scientific/CMM/06-07/seminars.

Actuarial Science and Mathematical Finance Group
This holds regular informal meetings at the Fields Institute, on subjects which are often of interest in or involve Statistics. See www.utstat.utoronto.ca/sjaimung/asmf.htm.

The Nathan and Beatrice Keyfitz Lectures in Mathematics and the Social Sciences
The inaugural lecture in this series was held on May 8, 2007. The purpose of this annual series is both to inform the public of some of the ways quantitative methods are being used to design solutions to societal problems, and to encourage dialogue between mathematical, statistical and social scientists. The first lecturer was Joel Cohen of Rockefeller and Columbia Universities, who spoke on “How Many People Can the Earth Support? And How Do You Know That?” The next speaker will be Jon Kleinberg of Cornell University, whose research interests are centered around issues at the interface of networks and information, with an emphasis on the social and information networks that underpin the Web and other on-line media. See www.fields.utoronto.ca/programs/scientific/keyfitz_lectures for more information.

Fields Institute Summer Workshop on Environmetrics
This workshop will be held at the University of Waterloo on July 17-19, 2007. The workshop is also supported by the SSC. Its primary purpose is to encourage the awareness and interest of environmental scientists and statisticians, particularly those from North America, to join forces and integrate their expertise. As the contents of this workshop will minimally overlap with – but highly complement – those of similarly titled workshops such as the NPCDS Workshop on Spatial/Temporal Modelling for Marine Ecological Systems and NPCDS Workshop on Forest Fires and Point Processes, scientists and participants of these workshops are encouraged to attend the environmetrics workshop to lend their ideas and expertise to help achieve the intended outcome of raising awareness of the general discipline of environmental statistics.

Data Assimilation Workshop
This workshop will be held on September 4-7, 2007 at the Fields Institute. Its goal is to motivate and better understand data assimilation through the science of the middle atmosphere. Data assimilation requires a knowledge of measurement and model errors which, in turn, require knowledge of the true underlying system – the middle atmosphere. For further information, see www.fields.utoronto.ca/programs/scientific/07-08/data_assim.

Disturbances: Modelling Spread in Forests
To be held on October 18–19, 2007 at the University of Western Ontario.

Fields Institute Deadlines:
Thematic programs: August 31.
Workshops, seminars, conferences, summer schools: October 15.

The Distinguished Lecture Series (nominations): September 15.
REPORTS

CRM-Fields-PIMS Prize: November 1.
Postdoctoral Fellowships: December 6.
(although late applications may be considered).
Visiting memberships: no special deadlines, but early application is advised.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRM-SSC Prize in Statistics Awarded to Dr. Richard Cook

Charmaine Dean (Simon Fraser University; Chair of the CRM-SSC Prize Committee)

Dr. Richard Cook, Professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo, is the 2007 winner of the CRM-SSC prize. Dr. Cook’s work in longitudinal and lifetime data analysis has had immense impact on biostatistics, medicine and public health. Within 15 years of his Ph.D., Richard Cook has made outstanding contributions to an impressive number of statistical research fields covering the design of clinical trials, hierarchical models, robust inference, and the analysis of survival, multi-state, and recurrent event data. His work is solidly grounded in important problems in public health and clinical trials and he has substantially raised the level of statistical expertise in the Canadian and international medical community through his important methodological advances in these fields. That this community has afforded him several major awards to develop new theory in his areas of expertise is evidence of the great respect that they honour him. Richard Cook is gifted with great insight and a passion for closely knit collaborative work, one which truly embodies the sorts of interdisciplinary connections which form the cornerstone of rapid advances in medical and biostatistical research.

Richard Cook obtained his B.Sc. in Statistics from McMaster University and his M.Math, in 1989, and Ph.D., in 1993, from the University of Waterloo. He was appointed a Research Assistant Professor in Statistics in 1993 at the University of Waterloo. He currently holds adjunct appointments in the Department of Health Studies and Gerontology at the University of Waterloo and in the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University. In 1998, he became an Associate Professor and then, in 2003, a Full Professor. He was awarded a Tier I Canada Research Chair in Statistical Methods for Health Research at the University of Waterloo in 2005.

Richard Cook is a leading international expert in longitudinal and life history data analysis. He has made ingenious contributions to the analysis of multi-state models and the joint analysis of multiple events. His joint work with Jerry Lawless has helped set current frameworks used in the analysis of recurrent events, and their jointly authored book The Statistical Analysis of Recurrent Events is to be published in July 2007. Characteristic of Richard Cook’s research is the novelty and insight it brings to important problems in public health research. He has made exceptional contributions to the medical community and is one of their leading experts in methods for several application areas including rheumatology, cardiovascular disease, oncology, clinical trials and transfusion medicine. He has also provided great leadership through service on several medical advisory panels and medical research grant selection committees. He was a Scholar of the (previous) Medical Research Council of Canada from 1996 to 2000 and held an Investigator award the Canadian Institutes of Health Research from 2000 – 2005 and a Premier’s Research Excellence Award from the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology and GlaxoSmithKline from 1999 to 2004. Professor Cook has served as Associate editor of the Canadian Journal of Statistics and Lifetime Data Analysis and as President of the Biostatistics Section of the SSC. Professor Cook has also made important contributions to training with four postdoctoral fellows, six doctoral, and thirteen Master’s degrees completed under his supervision. Richard Cook’s impact on biostatistics has been truly inspiring.

Richard credits his success to parents who created a nurturing and supportive home life during his formative years, inspirational colleagues at the University of Waterloo, and top notch graduate students and research fellows. Richard’s sister, Dr. Deborah Cook, is a Canada Research Chair in the Department of Medicine at McMaster University with whom he collaborates on occasion. Richard, his wife Alison, and their sons Graham and Eric live in Hamilton, Ontario where they enjoy cycling, hiking, running, golf and soccer.

This announcement of the 2007 CRM-SSC prize was made at Memorial University in St. John’s, site of this
year’s Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada. The SSC, founded in 1977, is dedicated to the promotion of excellence in statistical research and practice. This prestigious award, jointly sponsored by the SSC and the Centre de recherches mathématiques (CRM), is given each year to a Canadian statistician in recognition of outstanding contributions to the discipline during the recipient’s first 15 years after earning a doctorate.

Richard Cook is the ninth recipient of the CRM-SSC Prize. Previous winners of the award were Christian Genest (Laval), Robert J. Tibshirani (Stanford), Colleen D. Cutler (Waterloo), Larry A. Wasserman (Carnegie Mellon), Charmaine B. Dean (Simon Fraser), Randy Sitter (Simon Fraser), Jiahua Chen (Waterloo) and Jeffrey Rosenthal (Toronto).

SSC Reception in Salt Lake City — July 30, 2007

The Statistical Society of Canada reception at the 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings will be held from 5 to 7 pm on Monday, July 30, at the Fontainbleau Salon of the Grand America Hotel. Members and friends of the Society are all welcome. The President of the SSC, Christian Genest, will host the event.

CEGO Conference on Surveys

October 18, 2007
Palace Royal Hotel
Québec City

Do surveys have a role to play in the public service? This issue will be considered in detail on October 18 at the Palace Royal Hotel in Québec City, at a conference organized by the CEGO (Centre d’expertise des grands organismes), a consortium of various Québec Government services. Sponsored by the SSC and the ASSQ, this meeting will emphasize the importance of polling and survey methods in accountability, transparency and management culture in government services. Christian Genest will serve as Master of Ceremony for this event featuring various actors in the field on the Québec scene: Danielle Lapointe (Hydro-Québec), Bernard Letarte (Ministère des transports du Québec), Robert Bernier (École nationale d’administration publique), Mireille Fillion and Nathalie Madore (Régie des rentes du Québec), Florent Gagné (consultant) et François Laverdure (Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail). A talk will also be delivered over lunch by La Presse columnist Yves Boisvert. For additional information, look under “Une mesure pour l’avenir” at www.grandsorganismes.gouv.qc.ca.

1st Canada-Mexico Statistics Meeting

February 22-23, 2008
Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas (CIMAT)
Guanajuato, Mexico

A premier of its kind, this conference aims to foster research interactions and collaborations between the statistical communities of Canada and Mexico. The meeting builds on a number of successful previous research efforts that led to joint projects and publications, and training of graduate students. The Mexican Statistical Association and the Statistical Society of Canada are the main sponsors.

Plenary addresses, invited paper and poster sessions will be the formats of presentation. All talks will be delivered in English. Viable topics for invited paper sessions are those where at least one speaker from each country is available. We aim to have sessions on Bayesian statistics, biostatistics, business statistics, data mining, econometrics, industrial statistics, probability, reliability, spatial statistics and survey methods. The Mexican side of the Organizing Committee consists of Eduardo Castañon (Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro), Graciela González Farias (Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas, President of the Mexican Statistical Association), Eduardo Gutiérrez (Instituto de Investigaciones en Matemáticas Aplicadas y en Sistemas, UNAM) and Manuel Mendoza Ramírez (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México). The Canadian counterparts are Aurélie Labbe (Université Laval), Richard Lockhart (Simon Fraser University), Salomón Minkin (Ontario Cancer Institute) and Román Viveros-Aguilera (McMaster University).

A “place of frogs” in the original indigenous dialect, Guanajuato is a colonial town of about 154,000 people located some 370 km northwest of Mexico City. The birthplace of painter Diego Rivera, whose house is now a museum, the city has many picturesque buildings, restaurants, stores, theatres, and other museums such as the Guanajuato Mummy Museum noted for its natural mummies. The town is located in an inland sunny, dry and low precipitation region; the daily highest temperature reached a maximum of 31 C, an average of 26 C and a minimum of 17 C with only one rainy day in February 2007. Del Bajío
The beginnings of a choice

The 1960’s brought revolutions of various sorts to the popular consciousness. The revolution for many people was centred on sex, drugs and rock’n roll, and a dose of opposition to the military-industrial complex. But there was also a new awareness of human impacts on the environment, and that appealed to me.

Having been raised in rural British Columbia I felt a natural affinity with environmental values, but was also drawn to science. It appeared to me that a lot of environmental science was less effective than it could be. I thought that an important piece of the gap between science and policy was analysis, i.e. transforming scientific information into knowledge that is credible and convincing to policy makers and legislators.

Education

Being interested in biology, I decided to combine that interest and the above thinking by pursuing a B.Sc. in Fisheries & Wildlife Biology at the University of Guelph, with a minor in statistics. The University of British Columbia provided a good environment to continue the theme with an M.Sc. in fisheries ecology, with emphasis on statistics and ecological process modelling.

Employment

Happily the end of the M.Sc. coincided with the creation of a position in biometrics with the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The Tale of a Career in Wildlife Biometrics

Eric Woodsworth (Environment Canada in Saskatoon)

The Tale of a Career in Wildlife Biometrics

The September 2007 issue of CJS starts off with two articles arising from recent SSC awards. At the 2006 Annual Meeting, 2005 Gold-Medal Winner David Andrews delivered his Gold-Medal address. His paper based on the address, titled “Robust likelihood inference for public policy,” leads off this issue. I would encourage you to read this interesting article in its entirety, but should you only have a few minutes, at least take a look at Figures 2 and 3 for an interesting and perhaps surprising message concerning “plus/minus two standard deviations.”

The second special article is “Asymptotic properties of the likelihood ratio test statistics in affected-sib-pair analysis” by Zeny Feng, Jiahua Chen, and Mary Thompson. This work arose from Dr. Feng’s Ph.D. thesis, supervised by Dr. Chen and Dr. Thompson, which won the Pierre Robillard award for the best thesis in our discipline defended in Canada in 2004. Robillard winners are customarily invited to submit an article based on their thesis to CJS, and the journal is very pleased to showcase such award-winning work.

The six regular articles appearing in the issue cover a diverse range of topics. I am not the best person to describe these papers, since they were all handled by my predecessor, Doug Wiens. In brief though, Hwashin Shin, Glen Takahara, and Duncan Murdoch write on “Optimal designs for calibration of orientations.” Such calibration is necessary for motion tracking devices which track both position and orientation of sensors. Jiancheng Jiang and co-authors consider hypothesis testing in additive models with a mix of linear terms and smooth terms. And in a related vein, Runze Li and Lei Nie consider models with both a nonparametric component, and a parametric, but non-linear, component, and adapt estimation techniques for nonlinear mixed-effect models to this context. Axel Munk and colleagues write on “Testing noninferiority in three-armed clinical trials based on likelihood ratio statistics.” In “Theoretical properties of tests for spatial clustering of count data,” Inkyung Jung and Martin Kulldorff take a careful look at what kinds of spatial clustering are well detected by which hypothesis testing procedures. This is clearly relevant to disease-surveillance and other applications. And, finally, Qi Qi Lu and Robert Lund write on “Simple linear regression with multiple level shifts.” They describe interesting methodology which seems particularly relevant to climatological data.

Happy reading!
The position kicked off in the fall of 1981 as one would expect: I held discussions with scientists about their statistical needs and began working on various design and analysis problems. But it quickly became clear that there were a few problems in the organization:

- no internal computer facilities or IT support. In use instead was an expensive external supplier with the user-hostile IBM MVS o/s.
- no data management policies or infrastructure, resulting in a lot of abandoned data.
- no computer training of staff; almost all computing was done by consultants.

If the science output of the organization were to improve, it was clear to me that I needed to put usable computing and statistical tools in the hands of scientists and technicians, and to try to rescue data stored in cubby holes on punch cards and magnetic tapes.

After playing the justification game for two years I installed a UNIX system, provided training to all staff, and implemented basic data security measures. Suddenly I was not only a statistician but a system manager and an information manager. And in my spare time I also started a field project on waterfowl reproduction.

Gradually the mean age in our research centre declined as new staff and students came on board. Increasingly, they came equipped with computer and statistical skills, and the demand for statistical assistance and custom programming declined.

The government environment
Meanwhile external pressure for government accountability increased, and departmental managers were pressing for integrative environmental work to deal with the complex challenges of our mandate. Government On Line put particular pressure on our information systems.

I was asked to participate in departmental efforts to address these pressures. It became clear that CWS was not the only part of Environment Canada with deficits in data management. The picture was fairly consistent: while data management might be practised at the project level in support of the objectives of one study, it often didn’t go beyond that scope. There was little attempt to share project information other than within a small community of practice, through publications, or through fairly static derived products such as weather forecasts or migratory bird hunting quotas. Integrative work was very difficult because there was little use of standards in data collection, data description (metadata), or data storage, and no policy existed to create and support a culture of sharing government information.

By now, my perspective had changed. Yes, analysis was very important in transforming information into knowledge, but could Canadian environmental science in general not do a much better job if we had ready access to all information bearing on a system in order to do more comprehensive and realistic work?

In trying to understand reality, are we more likely to be limited by the availability of good information or the availability of sufficiently sophisticated analytical tools? It depends on the situation, but I had come to think that information was the limiting factor in many cases relevant to Environment Canada, particularly during environmental emergencies or environmental assessment activities. Field crews fighting a chemical spill need access to as much relevant information as possible in order to optimize the protection of environmental assets. Biologists hoping to make a case for environmental conservation in an environmental impact hearing need to have the most comprehensive information and scientific evidence at their fingertips. In research contexts, the credibility of an analysis will be improved if the analyst has measures of data quality and limitations of collection methods and design, and if he/she can maximize the number of data points validly entering the analysis. All of these desiderata fall in the domain of information management, with some information technology elements, such as delivering information dynamically to field crews via handheld GPS/GIS units and web services.

Current work
Statistical requests still come in the door and I give them high priority. For example I’ve recently been looking at a study of rattlesnake migration from riparian den sites in a southern Alberta National Wildlife Area (NWA), to model frequency of migration distances in an effort to re-route road traffic related to gas exploration (sic) in the NWA.

However most of my time is now spent trying to help Environment Canada embrace modern information management (IM) principles and practices:

- I participate in discussions leading to formal IM policy at departmental and CWS levels. This will set the legal and institutional ground rules for the data life cycle, including data sharing...
practices and partnerships.

- I participate in a committee that is adopting metadata standards appropriate for the work of the various sectors of the department.
- I am working with CWS colleagues to develop a data repository framework which will accommodate our highly diverse data collections yet support integrated analysis.
- Following the lead of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) we are working on the use of low-level metadata standards to support partial or full automation of data preparation and analysis. ESA has already developed several examples of R analyses that are automatically parameterized through metadata coded in the Ecological Metadata Language (EML).
- We are working on a metadata repository framework that will address the different needs of internal project leaders and external data users. Geomatics practitioners and tabular data producers increasingly need to see metadata and data tightly integrated for effective integration and analysis, potentially through different metadata standards, while arbitrary users want to see a consistently searchable repository yielding comprehensive results in formats of their choice.
- Locally, I participate in a small group working to rescue datasets from oblivion by ensuring they are electronically accessible and secure, and well-structured and documented for inclusion in the above repositories.

Conclusion
When I look back to the original thoughts that motivated me to pursue a combined path of biology and statistics, I still see those impressions as valid: I still think we face a challenge in transforming science information into useful knowledge for policy formulation and environmental citizenship. But I feel more optimistic now that leveraging current and legacy data to that end is technically feasible, and likely to be supported broadly across science departments by the Government of Canada, in concert with science organizations around the world. Statisticians, because of their understanding of the value of data and data structure, can play a needed role.

About the Author
Eric Woodsworth is a biometrician and information manager with Environment Canada in Saskatoon. He came to this field from an educational (B.Sc., M.Sc.) background in aquatic and fisheries ecology with emphasis on quantitative analysis. In his spare time he plays trumpet and photographs nature.

STUDENTS’ CORNER

Survey Methods Section Student Award
Milorad Kovacevic (Statistics Canada; 2006-2007 President of the SSC Survey Methods Section)

The Survey Methods Section of the Statistical Society of Canada is announcing the winner of the 2006 Award in Survey Methods for Students. Three papers were submitted to the Proceedings of the Survey Methods Section that were eligible for the 2006 Award in Survey Methods for Students. This award was open to all students registered at a Canadian university at any time in 2006. We are pleased to announce that Xiaojian Xu from the University of Alberta (currently Assistant Professor at Brock University, St. Catherine’s, ON) has won the 2006 award of $500 for her paper co-authored with Pierre Lavallée from Statistics Canada entitled “Treatments for Link Nonresponse in Indirect Sampling”. We would like to thank the authors who prepared the three papers.

All papers submitted to the Proceedings of the Survey Methods Section can be found on the web page of the Survey Methods Section www.ssc.ca/survey/SMSProceedings_e.html.

The Survey Methods Section is also announcing a contest for the 2007 Award in Survey Methods for Students for the best student paper presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Canada. This award is open to all students registered at a Canadian university at any time in 2007. The paper must be presented in a session at the 2007 meeting and submitted to the editor of the Proceedings of the Survey Methods Section by the proceedings deadline (normally in September). The student must be the sole or the lead author, but does not have to be the presenter at the meeting. Proof of enrolment at a Canadian university should be submitted along with the paper. A panel of experts appointed by the Executive of the Survey Methods Section will judge the papers submitted. The award will consist of a plaque and a $500 prize. The award will be announced in Liaison and on the SSC Web-site.

SSC Scholarship at University of Western Ontario

In recognition of UWO’s role as host of the 2006 Annual Meeting, the SSC Board of Directors presented the Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences with a $6,000 student scholarship. On behalf of the department, we thank the SSC for their generosity. The money will be awarded as travel grants to graduate students making presentations at SSC Annual Meeting or Joint Statistical Meetings. Our appreciation goes to the SSC for their continuing support of young researchers.
The Statistical Society of Canada sponsored one cash award for projects at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, held this year in Truro, NS. The SSC award is for outstanding projects in statistical theory, or projects that use sound study design, data analysis and data presentation.

The students decided if they wished to be considered for the SSC cash awards. The prize money this year was provided by the SSC itself. The judges reviewed all of the nominated projects and selected the prize winner based on their project displays and their answers to questions raised by the judges in personal interviews.

Malcolm Stagg of Calgary, Alberta was awarded the prize of $1,000 in the Senior Category for his project “Distributed Robotics: An Intelligent System”. His project proposed a system of neural-based distributed robotics for improved performance and environmental interaction. Malcolm used an adaptive communication algorithm to share information and present feedback between robots. Such robotics have possible application in minefield clearing, exploration and mapping, and military surveillance.

The 2008 Canada-Wide Science Fair will be held in May 2008 in Ottawa, ON. Volunteers to help judge for the SSC Award are most welcome.

For 2007, the Youth Science Foundation, who organizes the Canada-Wide Science Fair each year, changed the structure for prizes being awarded by various sponsors. They were strongly encouraging sponsors to offer awards in any one specific scientific domain. This poses obvious problems for the SSC, since statistics can be part of a project in any scientific domain. Eventually, they were persuaded to allow sponsors to offer prizes across domains and they are committed to continuing this in the future. The Statistical Education Committee of the SSC feels strongly that supporting the Canada-Wide Science Fair is an important initiative, since it helps promote statistics to students and maintains the visibility of the SSC in the field. During discussions around the Science Fair, there were many suggestions made concerning supporting local science or data fairs, in addition to the national one. The SSC Board of Directors has agreed and will try to put aside money to support both the national and some smaller local fairs in 2008. So, if you are aware of a local fair taking place in your community where you think the SSC could sponsor a small award for students making good use of statistics, please let us know!

2006-2007 SSC-SFU Award Given to Feng Gao

Following the Annual Meeting of the SSC held at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in 2001, some of the profits generated by the event were donated by the SSC to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Sciences at SFU which uses this endowment fund to finance an annual award offered to a meritorious major/honors student in Statistics and/or Actuarial Science. This year’s winner is Feng Gao, who writes:

“Two years ago, I made the decision to pursue my second bachelor’s degree in actuarial science rather than seek a master’s degree in computing science, which was the major of my first degree. The past two years turned out to be the most important period in my life; I have found not only where my strength is but also a career to which I can devote myself.

Along with being exposed to a number of subjects in actuarial science and statistics, I have also taken two Society of Actuary exams, P and FM, and completed the economics and finance courses that satisfy the Society’s Validation of Education Experience course requirements.

“I have a strong intention to work toward a Ph.D. degree in actuarial science after my graduation. In terms of a long term career goal, I would prefer doing research and teaching in an academic environment. In the fall of 2006, I was granted a teaching-assistant work term at Simon Fraser University, which helped me value this career goal more. I enjoyed the discussion with people on statistical issues. More important, I found out that teaching is not only about how to explain the concepts and theories but also based on the understanding of other people’s thoughts.

“While school has taken much of my time, I had been working as a part-time waiter and occasionally on a second job until the end of last year. That has enabled me to improve my time-management skills and provided valuable life experience. Also, for this spring semester, I have been doing a co-op work term in the Household Survey Methods Division at Statistics Canada, where I am familiarizing myself to the practical statistics tools and application and honing my interpersonal skills.”

Université Laval

The SFdS-ISQ Prize for the best end-of-studies project presented by senior students enrolled in the bachelor’s degree in statistics at Université Laval was awarded to the team of Isabel Moreau, Geneviève Piché and Karine Roy-Loubier. Their project was titled “Study of the growth and mortality of degraded fir bushes with yellow birch in three administrative regions of Québec”.

STUDENTS’ CORNER

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British Columbia

University of Northern British Columbia

Dr. Pranesh Kumar has been promoted to Full-Professor in the Department of Mathematics, effective July 1, 2007. Kumar completed a one-year sabbatical at the end of June.

Dr. Kevin Keen, P.Stat., is stepping down as the Director of the Prince George CaNIOs (Canadian Network for Improved Outcomes in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus) Centre and turns the reins over to James Dunne, M.D., of the University of British Columbia. Keen and Dunne collaborate on biomarker research for systemic sclerosis, each holding separate research grants from the Scleroderma Association of British Columbia.

Ontario

University of Waterloo

Paul Embrechts Receives an Honorary Degree from the University of Waterloo

An honorary doctoral degree was conferred to Paul Embrechts (ETH Zurich) by the University of Waterloo on June 15. A conference on Risk Management and Insurance was held in his honor the following day, under the auspices of the Institute for Quantitative Finance and Insurance of the University of Waterloo. Over one hundred participants heard Professor Embrechts, along with Hans Bühlmann (ETH Zurich), Christian Genest (Université Laval), Mary Kelly (Wilfrid Laurier University), Hyejin Ku (York University) and Peter Song (University of Waterloo). Members of the SSC will also have the opportunity to appreciate the eloquence of Paul Embrechts and the impact of his work next May, as he will deliver the inaugural address at the Annual Meeting of the Society to be held in Ottawa.

University of Western Ontario

The Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences recently made two new faculty appointments. Dr. Hristo Sendov joined the Department in May as an Assistant Professor. He has an academic background and industrial experience in both optimization and financial mathematics. Bethany White will assume a teaching position in September. In addition, Bethany will be involved in the research and development of innovative teaching techniques.

York University

Dr. Wei Liu will join the Department of Mathematics and Statistics as an Assistant Professor, effective July 1, 2007. Liu obtained her Ph.D. from the Department of Statistics at University of British Columbia in October 2006. Since then, she has been a postdoctoral fellow in SFU/UBC. Liu’s research interests focus on the theory and methods for measurement errors and missing data problems in longitudinal studies.

Québec

Meeting of the CRM Statistics Laboratory in Québec City

A one-day conference was held in Québec City on June 1. Sponsored by the Statistics Laboratory of the CRM (Centre de recherches mathématiques), the event was organized by Aurélie Labbe (Université Laval), Christian Léger and Alejandro Murua (Université de Montréal). The key-note address was delivered to some 40 participants by Martin Bilodeau (Université de Montréal). Other speakers were Nicolas Bousquet (Université Laval), Félix Labrecque-Synnott (Université de Montréal), Simon Guillotte (Université de Montréal) and Nâamane Laib (Concordia University). The closing talk was given by Bruno Rémillard (HEC Montréal). The meeting was a great success and a second edition is expected to be held somewhere else in Québec, in the spring of 2008.

ASSQ Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the ASSQ (Association des statisticiennes et des statisticiens du Québec) was held on Friday June 8 at the Manoir du Lac Delage, a well-known vacation resort located approximately thirty kilometres north of Québec City. The event attracted some fifty statisticians from the public and private sectors. The program consisted of three plenary sessions featuring Keith J. Worsley (McGill University), Chantal Girard (Institut de la statistique du Québec) and Martin Rioux (Promain-tech Novaxa). The speakers gave both entertaining and instructive talks on the statistical analysis of digital images, the demographic trends of Québec over the 2001-2051 horizon, and the tactical use of statistics in the National Hockey League, respectively. A gastronomic meal followed the association’s Annual General Meeting.

Université Laval

On March 16, Nadia Ghazzali was awarded the “Trophée des femmes arabes du Québec”, in the category of Teaching and Research. The purpose of this award is to promote Québec women of Arab origins who, through their involvement, dynamism and leadership, enrich Québec’s society.

Dr. Nicolas Bousquet joined the Statistics Group in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics on May 1st, 2007. He is a postdoctoral fellow who will work under the supervision of Thierry Duchesne and Louis-Paul Rivest on a research project in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Bousquet obtained his Ph.D. in December 2006 from Université Paris-Sud 11, where he worked on reliability theory.

Concordia University

Wenyu Jiang and Lea Popovic will join the Department of Mathematics and Statistics as assistant professors starting on July 1st, 2007. Jiang graduated from the University of Waterloo under the supervision of Jack Kalbfleisch and Jiahua Chen, and is currently a visiting fellow at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD. Popovic graduated under the guidance of David Aldous at University of California, Berkeley and is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Cornell University. Xiwen Zhou was promoted to Associate Professor in 2005-06 and will be on sabbatical leave for the academic year 2007-08. He will spend a major portion of this leave at McMaster University.
OBITUARY

Charles William Dunnett (1921–2007)

by Peter Macdonald (McMaster University), Ajit Tamhane (Northwestern University) and George Styan (McGill University)

Charlie Dunnett passed away peacefully at his home in Hamilton, ON on May 18, 2007, after a brief hospitalization. He, along with John Tukey, Henry Scheffé and David Duncan, was one of the founders of the still-flourishing field of multiple comparisons. His 1955 paper [Journal of the American Statistical Association, vol. 50, pp. 1096–1121] on multiple comparisons with a control is one of the most cited papers in statistics, with nearly 4000 citations, according to the ISI Web of Knowledge. The Dunnett procedure based on the multivariate $t$-distribution proposed in that paper is widely used in diverse applications, especially in clinical trials. His work in stepwise testing procedures, ranking and selection, dose finding, and superiority-equivalence testing is also well-known.

Charlie had a fascinating career path. Mary Thompson’s 1988 interview [SSC Liaison, vol. 3, no. 1, November 1988, pp. 25—33] with Charlie in 1988, available on the Statistical Society of Canada web site at www.ssc.ca/main/about/history/dunnett_e.html, gives us a delightful glimpse into Charlie’s life. The following is a brief extraction. Charlie was born on August 24, 1921 in Windsor, Ontario. He graduated in 1942 with a B.A. in Mathematics and Physics from McMaster University. He served in the Royal Navy during World War II, traveled the Murmansk convoy run, and was awarded an MBE for his work on radar, his job being to keep the new technology working in the field, all before reaching age 24. He returned to Canada and obtained an M.A. in Mathematics at the University of Toronto in 1946. Following two years at Columbia University and a year spent teaching at the New York State Maritime College, in 1949 he joined the Food and Drug Laboratories of the Department of National Health and Welfare in Ottawa as a biometrician. He spent the academic year 1952–1953 on leave at Cornell University, when he worked with Bob Bechhofer and Milton Sobel on selection procedures. This work required the extension of Student’s $t$-distribution to the multivariate case which he was to use later in his famous procedure for multiple comparisons with a control. A detailed bibliography of Charlie’s publications is being prepared and will be available on the SSC web site in due course.

Next he accepted a position as a statistician at Lederle Laboratories, a pharmaceutical division of American Cyanamid Company. On a two-year leave from Lederle, Charlie took his family to Aberdeen and obtained his D.Sc. in 1960 working with David Finney on the statistical theory of drug screening. He left Lederle in 1974 when he was appointed Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Health Sciences Faculty at McMaster University. He was chairman of the Department of Applied Mathematics at McMaster from 1977 to 1979 and oversaw its merger into the Department of Mathematical Sciences, now called the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Mathematics and Statistics when he retired in 1987.

Charlie was a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and an elected Member of the International Statistical Institute. He served as President of the Statistical Society of Canada in 1982. In 1986 he became the second recipient of the Statistical Society of Canada Gold Medal.

Charlie was a passionate researcher, always exploring new ideas. Unusual for his generation of researchers, he was extremely good at computing and was excited to discover new programming tricks. Until illness forced him to slow down about a year ago, he came in regularly to work in his office at McMaster, and even answered some e-mails from his hospital bed. He maintained his individual research grant to the end. He was a marvelous example to young researchers and always provided generous guidance and support to them.

Charlie’s love of the innovative and unusual has taken him in many other interesting directions. His family remembers how a love of nature led to wilderness canoe trips and an interest in astronomy, so Charlie got some glass and began grinding lenses. It never occurred to anyone that you could go out and buy a telescope! Ted Munn, his University of Toronto roommate, remembers “Charlie was a close friend of mine in North House in the early 1940’s, and although we did not see much of each other in later years, I do recall Charlie’s visits to our home in Halifax in the 1950’s. At that time he was working for Statistics Canada, on a top secret assignment to the Canadian Navy in Halifax. It was decades later that the nature of the assignment was revealed to me. The Navy’s supplier of rum had dried up, and Charlie was in charge of a rum-tasting experiment involving a group of sailors, the objective being to select a replacement rum for the Canadian Navy!”

Charlie leaves behind his wife, Connie, a son William, daughters Catherine and Mary, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. He was a kind and loving family man. We remember him as a man of faith, integrity and peace.

Peter Macdonald

E-23 VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2-3 MAY-JULY 2007 SSC LIAISON
Some presenters of Case Studies and their mentors / Quelques présentateurs d'études de cas et leurs mentors

Charmaine Dean presents the Canadian Journal of Statistics Award to Angelo Canty; he and co-authors Anthony Davison, David Hinkley and Valerie Ventura were winners of the award for the best paper published in the journal for 2006 / Charmaine Dean présente le prix de La revue canadienne de statistique à Angelo Canty; lui-même et ses co-auteurs Anthony Davison, David Hinkley et Valerie Ventura ont été les gagnants du prix pour le meilleur article publié dans la revue en 2006
Joanna Biernacka

All of the participants in the Herring Case Study / Tous les participants à l'étude de cas sur le hareng

Uditha Balasooriya, John Brewster

Uditha Balasooriya, John Brewster

Joanna Biernacka

McMaster Herring Case Study team / L'équipe de McMaster de l'étude de cas sur le hareng: Peter Macdonald, Oksanna Fill, Hui Wang, Lindsay Jacks, Cheng Lin Ye, Tim Trussell (SAS Institute / Institut SAS)

David Scollnik, Marie Collins, John Collins

Beatrixe Chapman, A.Stat.

CRM-SSC Prize in Statistics awarded to Richard Cook / Le prix CRM-SSC en statistique décerné à Richard Cook

John Neuhaus, Jerry Lawless, Chris Wild

Mary Lesperance, Christian Léger

David Stollnik, Marie Collins, John Collins

Nancy Reid introduces the SSC Awards / Nancy Reid inaugure la présentation des prix de la SSC

Mary Lesperance, Christian Léger

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John Neuhaus, Jerry Lawless, Chris Wild

Joanna Biernacka
Gold Medallist Don McLeish, Cyntha Struthers / Le médailleur d'or Don McLeish, Cyntha Struthers

Chris Field delivers the Gold medal Address “Modelling biological data: several vignettes” / Chris Field prononce l'allocution de la Médaille d’or “Modelling biological data: several vignettes.”

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Université Memorial de Terre-Neuve

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