

# The Role of the International Association for Statistical Education in Statistics Education- Part I

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Roger Johnson, the Publications Chair of the Section of Statistical Education, has asked me to write two articles describing the various activities of the International Association for Statistical Education (abbreviated IASE). This month's article will give an introduction to IASE, a discussion of its publications, and information on how to join IASE. Next month's article will discuss the other activities of the IASE, including its various conferences and the International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP).

## Introduction

In 1948 the International Statistical Institute (ISI), the parent organization of IASE, established the ISI Statistical Education Committee. This Committee functioned until 1991 when, as a result of the efforts of its members, the IASE was approved by the ISI membership as the fifth Section within the ISI. The purpose of IASE, according to its statutes is "to promote the understanding and advancement of statistical education and related subjects and to foster the development of effective and efficient educational services through international contacts among individuals and organisations, including statistical educators and educational institutions."

The President of IASE until August 2003 is Carmen Batanero (Spain, [batanero@ugr.es](mailto:batanero@ugr.es)). Chris Wild (New Zealand, [wild@stat.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:wild@stat.auckland.ac.nz)) is the President-Elect and Brian Phillips (Australia, [bphillips@swin.edu.au](mailto:bphillips@swin.edu.au)) is Past-President. The five Vice-Presidents are Dani Ben-Zvi (Israel, [dbenzvi@univ.haifa.ac.il](mailto:dbenzvi@univ.haifa.ac.il)), Carol Joyce Blumberg (USA, [cblumberg@winona.edu](mailto:cblumberg@winona.edu)), Lisbeth Cordani (Brazil, [lisbeth@ime.usp.br](mailto:lisbeth@ime.usp.br)), Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium, [gilberte.schuyten@rug.ac.be](mailto:gilberte.schuyten@rug.ac.be)) and Susan Starkings (UK, [starkisa@sbu.ac.uk](mailto:starkisa@sbu.ac.uk)). The IASE's homepage is located at <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.htm>.

## Overview of Publications

Since IASE is a Section within the ISI, the distinction between ISI and IASE publications is a blurry one. Hence, in this article, I will discuss IASE and ISI publications jointly. Additional information on all publications discussed here, including free-access and ordering instructions, is on the IASE Publications Homepage at <http://course1.winona.edu/cblumberg/pubshomepage.htm>. The Publications Homepage also provide information on journals and newsletters of other organizations in the area of statistics education.

## Journals

In January 2002, the IASE founded the **Statistics Education Research Journal**. It is now a joint publication of the IASE and ISI. It is a biannual free electronic publication and its second issue was released in December 2002. The journal's aims include the encouragement of research activity in statistics education, the advancement of knowledge about students' attitudes, conceptions, and difficulties in learning probability and statistics, and the improvement of the teaching of statistics at all educational levels. Further information and guidelines for authors are available at <http://fehps.une.edu.au/serj>.

**Short Book Reviews** is an ISI publication that is extremely useful to teachers of statistics. It is

published three times a year and contains 2- to 3-paragraph reviews (plus tables of contents) of professional books and textbooks published in the previous six months. It also contains lists of books not yet reviewed and lists of new journals, collected papers, tables and proceedings.

Articles in the area of statistics education are also published regularly in the **International Statistical Review**, a joint publication of ISI and its five Sections. Further, **Statistical Theory and Methods Abstracts** (STMA) provides approximately 6000 abstracts per year of articles and other publications in all areas of statistics, including statistics education.

### Newsletters

The **ISI Newsletter** is published three times a year and gives information on the activities of the ISI and its Sections. Each ISI Section, including IASE, is allocated pages in each issue of the Newsletter. The IASE Component of the ISI Newsletter includes notices of conferences and meetings, updates on IASE activities, short reports on new initiatives in statistical education, etc. Recent issues of the ISI Newsletter are at <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/newsltr.htm>. In addition, in November of each year, the IASE publishes **IASE Review**, which contains a summary of its activities for the previous 12 months. Further, a four-page insert, **IASE Matters**, is prepared three times a year for the journal "Teaching Statistics". This insert describes recent and future conferences, publications, etc. of IASE and other organizations.

### Books

**The Assessment Challenge in Statistics Education** (Joan Garfield and Iddo Gal, Eds., 1997, Price: US\$ 10) discusses conceptual and pragmatic issues in the assessment of statistical knowledge and reasoning skills among students at the college and pre-college levels, and the use of assessments to improve instruction. The book was designed primarily for academic audiences involved in teaching statistics and mathematics and in teacher education and training.

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of **A Dictionary of Statistical Terms** (Yadolah Dodge, Ed.) will be published early in 2003. A special effort was made to include statistics education terms in this edition. **Statisticians of the Centuries** (Chris C. Heyde & Eugene Seneta, Eds.) was published in 2002 by Springer-Verlag on behalf of the ISI. It "aims to demonstrate the achievements of statistics to a broad audience, and to commemorate the work of celebrated statisticians. This is done through 104 short biographies (written by 73 different authors) that put the statistical work in its historical and sociological context, emphasizing contributions to science and society in the broadest terms..." (extracted from the back cover of the book).

### Conference Proceedings

One of the major efforts of the IASE (and its predecessor, the ISI Statistical Education Committee) has been the production of conference proceedings. In this article only the proceedings of these conferences will be discussed. Details about recent and future conferences will be given in next month's article. The major worldwide conference in statistics education is the **International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS)**, which has been held every four years since 1982, and where both invited and contributed papers are presented that discuss all aspects of statistics education. The written **Proceedings** of all ICOTS conferences (except ICOTS 3) are still available for purchase. The Proceedings for ICOTS 5 (Singapore, 1998) are also available for free on the web at <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/icots5/>. Abstracts and other information about ICOTS 6 (Cape Town, South Africa, 2002) are available on the web at <http://icots6.haifa.ac.il/icots6.html>.

**Round Tables** on various topics within statistics education have been held since 1968. Free electronic copies of the Proceedings of the 2000 Round Table on **Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics** are available at <http://www.ugr.es/~batanero/iasert.htm> and the Proceedings of the 1996 Round Table on **Research on the Role of Technology in Teaching and Learning** are at [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~chance/teaching\\_aids/IASE/cover.html](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~chance/teaching_aids/IASE/cover.html). Written Proceedings of the 1996 and 2000 Round Tables, as well as the 1975 (*The Teaching of Statistics in Schools*), 1988 (*Training Teachers to Teach Statistics*), and 1992 (*Who should Teach Data Analysis and How?*) Round Tables, are available for purchase.

Every two years the ISI holds a worldwide conference called the **ISI Biennial Session**. Proceedings are produced and are called the **Bulletin of the ISI**. Since 1995 these proceedings have included many papers (both invited and contributed) in the area of statistics education. Printed or CD-Rom versions of all these proceedings are still available (see <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/sale-sessions.htm>). In addition, for the 1999 Biennial Session, the complete proceedings are available at <http://www.stat.fi/isi99/proceedings.html>. A listing of the statistics education Meetings (including summaries of the presentations) for the 1999 Biennial Session is at <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/isi52.html>.

Prior to the 1993 and 2001 ISI Biennial Sessions, IASE held satellite meetings. The **Proceedings of the First Scientific Meeting of IASE** (1993) are in book form and still available for purchase. Most of the papers presented at the **2001 Satellite Conference on Statistical Literacy** are available on the web at <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/statlit.html>. Finally, collections of papers presented in the area of statistics education at the **International Congress on Mathematics Education** in 1996 (ICME-8) and 2000 (ICME-9) were compiled by the IASE and are available for purchase.

## Why Join IASE?

Even though IASE is a Section of the ISI, many people join IASE without being a member of ISI. The benefits of membership in IASE are many. By joining IASE you are helping to support a worldwide effort to improve the state of statistics education. The more those from the USA, Canada and other developed countries demonstrate their support for the IASE, the more IASE can do to help those in less developed countries. IASE members receive for free the **IASE Review**, the **ISI Newsletter**, and the **ISI Membership Directory**. Members of IASE also receive reduced rates on almost all of the publications of the ISI and IASE described in this article. Further, IASE members are allowed to register for IASE- and ISI-sponsored conferences at reduced rates. Through IASE's and ISI's publications and conferences you will be part of an international community of scholars sharing experiences and new advancements in statistics education from a variety of cultures.

## Joining IASE

Annual dues for **Individual Membership** in IASE are only Euro 24 (US\$ 24) for those from developed countries and Euro 12 for those from less developed countries. **Institutional Membership** in IASE is Euro 200 (US\$ 200). Downloadable application forms are at <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/welcome.html#6>.

## For Further Information

For further information about IASE see the IASE homepage at [www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.htm](http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.htm) or contact any of the IASE officers at the email addresses given in the beginning of this article. You can also contact me directly at Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Winona State University, Winona MN 55987-5838, Tel: (507) 457-5589, Fax: (507) 457-5376. For further information about ISI see the ISI homepage at [www.cbs.nl/isi](http://www.cbs.nl/isi) or contact the ISI at P.O. Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg The Netherlands, Fax 31-70-3860025, email: [isi@cbs.nl](mailto:isi@cbs.nl).