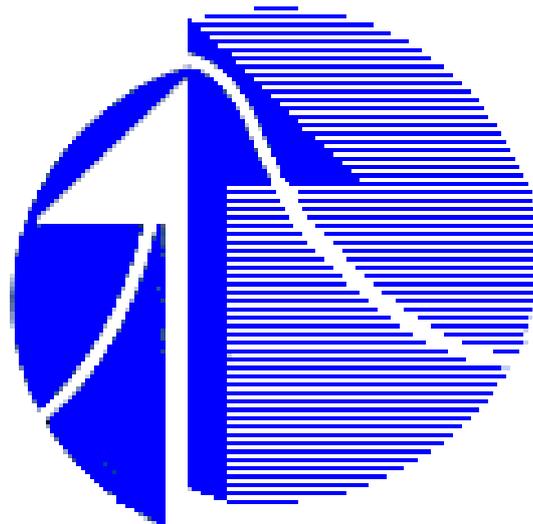


South African Statistical Association

Annual General Meeting



2011

SASA Annual General Meeting 2011

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA OF SASA TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 1
NOVEMBER 2011 AT THE CSIR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE**

- 1. Welcome**
 - 2. Minutes of 2010 AGM**
 - 2.1 Approval of the minutes
 - 2.2 Matters arising
 - 3. Finalising the agenda**
 - 4. Annual report of the Executive Committee 2010/2011**
 - 5. Annual report of Fellowship Committee**
 - 6. Other reports**
 - 6.1 Education Committee
 - 6.2 Careers Committee
 - 6.3 Official Statistics Committee
 - 6.4 ICCSSA Task Team
 - 6.5 Newsletter
 - 6.6 Managing Editor Journal
 - 6.7 Editor Journal
 - 6.8 Western Cape Chapter
 - 6.9 Free State Chapter
 - 6.10 KwaZulu-Natal Chapter
 - 6.11 Eastern Cape Chapter
 - 6.12 Limpopo Chapter
 - 7. Financial matters**
 - 7.1 2011 Interim financial statements and report
 - 7.2 Draft 2012 Budget
 - 7.3 Membership fees 2012
 - 7.4 Journal subscription fees 2012
 - 8. Initiatives of the incoming President for 2011/2012**
 - 9. Executive Committee for 2011/2012**
 - 9.1 Vice-President
 - 9.2 Treasurer
 - 9.3 Managing Editor of the SASJ
 - 9.4 Member responsible for sponsorships
 - 9.5 Co-opted members by EC
 - 10. SASA Conference 2012**
 - 11. Additional matters**
 - 11.1 Institute of Applied Statistics (IAS)
 - 11.2 New format of SASJ
 - 11.3 Standards Generating Body (SGB)
 - 12. Closing**
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2010 AT THE NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY

1. **Welcome**

The president, Yoko Chhana, welcomed all members to the 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM). As some members had not received the AGM booklet before the meeting, a proposal was made and accepted to give members five minutes to read through the reports.
2. **Minutes of 2009 AGM**
 - 2.3 **Approval of the minutes**

The minutes were approved.
 - 2.2 **Matters arising**

There were none.
3. **Finalising the agenda**

The agenda was accepted as a working document.
4. **Annual report of the Executive Committee 2009/2010**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
5. **Annual report of Fellowship Committee**

The chairperson, Herrie van Rooy, announced that one nomination for a Fellow was received, but a unanimous decision could not be reached.
6. **Other reports**
 - 6.1 **Education Committee**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.2 **Careers Committee**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.3 **ICCSSA Task Team**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.4 **Newsletter**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.5 **Managing Editor of Journal**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.6 **Scientific Editors of Journal**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.7 **Western Cape Chapter**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.8 **Free State Chapter**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.9 **KwaZulu-Natal Chapter**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.10 **Eastern Cape Chapter**

The report was taken as read and accepted.
 - 6.11 **Limpopo Chapter**

No report was received because of inactivity.

6.12 Statistical Terminology Project

The report was taken as read and accepted.

7. Financial matters

7.1 2010 Interim financial statements

The report was taken as read and accepted.

Christien Thiart suggested replacing some EC meetings with a conference call meeting to save funds. The chairperson agreed that it is possible, but pointed out that for most discussions the EC need to meet physically.

7.2 Interim 2010 financial report and notes on draft 2011 budget

The budget as presented in the AGM booklet was approved.

7.3 Membership fees

It was proposed and accepted that fees will increase per annum from 2011 as follows: Ordinary membership fee to increase to R250 incl. VAT (14% increase given no increases last three years); senior membership increase to R125 and affiliated membership to R440.

8. Sichel Medal Award

Sarah Radloff made the presentation in the absence of Paul Fatti. This was the 13th time that the medal has been awarded after being instated in 1997. All the judges were in agreement that the winner of this year's Sichel medal is Melvin Varughese from UCT.

9. Initiatives of the incoming President for 2010/2011

The incoming president, Pravesh Debba, highlighted the 10 initiatives as set out in the AGM booklet.

10. Executive Committee for 2010/2011

The nominations received were as follows:

10.1 Vice-President

Gary Sharp (NMMU) was elected unopposed.

10.2 Secretary

Marie Smith (private consultant) was elected unopposed.

10.3 Additional member responsible for Chapters

Sarah Radloff (RU) was elected unopposed.

10.4 Three additional members

Three nominations were received: James Allison (NWU), Inger Fabris-Rotelli (UP) and Leonard Santana (NWU), all unopposed.

11. SASA Conference 2011

The host for the 2011 SASA conference is the CSIR and it will be co-hosted by Stats SA.

12. Additional matters

12.1 ICCSSA as Associated Society of SASA

The chair of ICCSSA, Howard Gabriels, delivered a short presentation on the background and history of this group of industrial statisticians, their mission and goals, and named the task team, as well as the constitutional changes needed to accept ICCSSA as an Associated Society of SASA. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the hard work of all members of the Task Team during the past year.

12.2 Revision of the 2005 Constitution

Process: before discussion of the major changes proposed by the revision committee, ICCSSA and the EC, all members signed an attendance register to ensure that a quorum of enfranchised members were present so that it was possible to establish how many votes were a simple majority. The chairperson, Sarah Radloff, then reminded the AGM that members were informed about the proposed changes in the September 2010 newsletter and anyone could have accessed the changed constitution either from the web site or by requesting a hard copy from the secretary. Tim Dunne was thanked for compiling the new Code of Conduct and the revision committee: Sarah Radloff, Tertius de Wet, Jacky Galpin and Gina Joubert, for the many hours spent on this task their great assistance.

Firstly, the members voted on the inclusion of ICCSSA as an Associated Society and a majority vote was obtained (no member voted against the inclusion). The chairperson then discussed the inclusion of a Disciplinary Committee (together with the new Code of Conduct), and this elicited a long debate on the necessity of it (eight members voted against the inclusion). The chairperson pointed out that all international associations, such as RSS and ASA, have a Code of Conduct and a Disciplinary Committee, to protect the image and credibility of the Association. A further major change is the ICCSSA constitution and bye-laws.

The chairperson then discussed all the proposed fundamental changes in sections, followed by the new Code of Conduct (Addendum A), the ICCSSA bye-laws (Addendum B), Associated Societies of SASA (Addendum C), and the new ballot system (Addendum D). After each section was discussed a vote was called for and in all instances a majority vote was obtained. The final decision on all changes will be made by confidential postal vote during January 2011.

13. Closing

The chairperson thanked all members for their support and attending this crucial AGM. The meeting closed at 19:20.

ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010/2011

The SASA EC was once again challenged by many new initiatives throughout the year and I am therefore most grateful to each member's contribution in successfully addressing the initiatives as defined at the end of 2010. I am also grateful to SASA members with whom I often communicated, during the year, for assistance and advice.

The new year commenced with the acceptance of the revised constitution and ICCSSA bye-laws. Thanks to Sarah Radloff for co-ordinating the suggested changes and Gina Joubert for translating the constitution to Afrikaans. The final documents are now available on the SASA website. We should also not forget in addition to thank Sarah and Gina, those who assisted with the revision, namely, Tertius de Wet, Jacky Galpin and Tim Dunne. Sarah, we will miss your eight year contribution on the EC.

The Institute of Certificated and Chartered Statisticians of South Africa (ICSSA) has been accepted as an associated society of SASA. ICSSA is the essential body for practising statisticians, establishing a united and collaborative environment by recognising, empowering and providing true representation and continuously improving the abilities of statisticians and to be a respected, professional and well governed organization. ICSSA was officially launched on 13 June 2011 in Johannesburg, with the Minister in the Presidency responsible for the National Planning Commission (NPC) Trevor Manuel present, and signed the charter for the new institute in the presence of those attending the launch.

To address the crisis of the shortage of academic statisticians at universities we are in the process of sending a questionnaire to heads of departments at each higher education institute to find out the current state at each institute. This is a follow up to the questionnaire that was sent out three years ago.

SASA is appreciative to SAS and Stats SA who have been loyal sponsors of SASA for many years. I am extremely happy to announce that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SAS and SASA was signed in September 2011 after over a year of planning and discussions. I am most grateful to Yoko Chhana and Murray de Villiers (SAS) who stayed on from start to finish. At the early stages Riaan de Jongh and James Allison contributed towards the MoU discussions and towards a later stage Desan Naidoo, Goran Dragosavac and others were instrumental in drawing this to a conclusion.

I am also extremely happy to announce that the MoU between Stats SA and SASA was also signed in October 2011 after over a year's planning and discussions. Once again I am most grateful to Yoko Chhana, Pali Lehohla (Statistician General – Stats SA), Mbulaheni Nthangeni and Yandiswa Mpetsheni who were involved in drawing up the MoU. With the census 2011, this was certainly not easy.

These MoUs will assist toward capacity building in statistics in South Africa. With the support of Stats SA and SAS, SASA will be organising a series of new competitions. The competitions for 2012 will now include a student scholarship and bursary awards, senior post-graduate paper competition, the best presentation using analytics at the Young Statisticians stream during the SASA conference, a postgraduate bursary award which covers part tuition fees and a cluster of free SAS training courses, an award to a “Thought leader” promoting analytics through mentoring, supervision, research, projects, etc and awards given to young researchers to attend the ISI 2013 conference based on a paper competition. In addition, we are now working closely with the Institute of Applied Statistics and the institute would offer further bursaries for undergraduate and postgraduate studies, raise the awareness of statistical mathematics at schools through an outreach programme and also support certain projects which contribute towards skills development in the field of statistics throughout South Africa.

The MoU between SAS and SASA will allow us to create an expert list of statisticians in various fields. This would be set up in 2012. The purpose is to allow researchers to collaborate with other statisticians in similar fields. A second purpose is to allow students to find appropriate supervisors for postgraduate studies. This database would be funded by SAS. We also started discussions on developing a fresh outlook to the SASA website. Sonali Das would be involved in developing this website with the help from others on the EC. We expect this to be operational by the end of the first term next year.

The SASA Education committee, with Delia North as chair of this committee, has once again organised the Honours project competition and the Postgraduate paper competition and awarded bursaries and scholarships. Congratulations to the winners! In addition, the outreach programme for the teaching of statistics at school level has offered a lecture series, which has now been extended to North-West province as a result from the SASA 2010 conference hosted by University of North-West. A brain storming session on image building led by Leonard Santana (careers committee) and Yoko Chhana at one of the EC meetings has culminated in the talk *How to attract students during open day* at the SASA 2011 conference. Delia North, James Allison, Howard Gabriels, Yoko Chhana and Gary Sharp will share ideas and experiences they had during university open day.

Thanks to the team responsible for the South African Statistical Journal (SASJ), namely, Nelis Potgieter as Managing Editor, Max Finkelstein as Editor and Carl Lombard, Tertius De Wet, Samuel Manda, Noel Veraverbeke, Robert Schall and Khangelani Zuma as associated editors. A special thanks

to Inger Fabris-Rotelli, Herrie van Rooy, Paul Mostert, and Marie Smith for assisting with the local administration and publication of the Journal while Nelis Potgieter was on a post doc in USA. Edna Schultz is also acknowledged for her role in the journal process. Corna Vorster who was the official proof-reader of SASJ for many years resigned this year and later passed away. We are most grateful to Corna for the assistance she provided to SASA for many years. One of the initiatives set out for 2010/11 was to increase the number of published articles in SASJ and I must congratulate the team and the authors because this year SASJ published 14 articles, which is a record number for a year. In an attempt to increase the impact factor of SASJ, the articles in SASJ are now published on Sabinet. Sabinet also houses back-issues of SASJ. All journals electronically available since 2006 are now available on Sabinet. Journals prior to 2006 were scanned and will be available on Sabinet. SASA EC is also looking into SASJ being accredited with the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) Thomson and the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS) accreditation. During the SASA 2011 conference we are having a meeting with Professor Balakrishnan and other SASA members to discuss this issue since Professor Balakrishnan is the chief editor of several international journals. SASA EC is also considering increasing the size of SASJ from A5 to something closer to A4 and to also have LaTeX style file to streamline the process of publishing the journal on time and to have an even more professional look.

SASA EC is still concerned about the hosting of future conferences. We find it more difficult for hosts to come forward and volunteer to host the conference. Many universities are having a problem to host the conference during late October or early November because the venues are often used for examinations during this period. We might be forced to host the conference at different times in the year if this persists.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Sonali Das for the wonderful work that she has done over the past two years as Newsletter Editor. Sonali has resigned from this position. The December 2011 issue would be her last issue and we would need for someone to take over from March 2012. Sonali has added many new and interesting columns to the newsletter, and it was interesting to read the articles on senior retired statisticians. We will all miss her valuable input and contribution.

The SASA chapters were active and provided an opportunity for members to interact with others in their region. I must also add that we had a fair amount of interaction from the Limpopo chapter this year and must thank Caston Sigauke, Abebe Tessler, Maseka Lesaoana and Amey Alphonse for this; along with Sarah Radloff for initiating discussions with members from Limpopo. However, the scheduled meeting and activity did not take place this year due to many participants involved in meetings regarding the 2011 census. The proposed programme to kick-off the chapter will be rescheduled to 2012.

The SASA 2011 conference, hosted by CSIR and Stats SA, promises to be a stimulating experience with seven keynote speakers, five workshops, and

over 160 presentations. The EC thanks the CSIR, Stats SA and the conference organising team for their immense effort in planning an exciting program. The programme will also feature peer-reviewed conference proceedings and this year 11 papers have been accepted for publication. The EC is appreciative of the work undertaken by Gary Sharp to co-ordinate this.

Further thanks go to the Treasurer, Paul Mostert, and the Secretary, Marie Smith, whose tireless efforts ensure that the association runs efficiently. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Marie for serving as secretary of SASA for 13 years. Marie, we would most certainly miss you! Marie has now resigned from this position and Inger Fabris-Rotelli will be co-opted by the EC until Marie's term as secretary has expired.

I also thank the Statistics Departments at the various universities, Research Councils and businesses for a sponsorship of R 5 000 and to Statistics SA for a sponsor of R 10 000 to place adverts in the SASA newsletter. Paul has always kept careful records of SASA's finances and for this reason, SASA finances are currently in a good state.

Thanks to the efforts by Yoko Chhana, this year we have a few honorary member awards and also fellowship awards. Many thanks for those who took the effort in submitting nominations for these awards and congratulations to those who were successful in achieving these awards.

Despite having to organise the SASA 2011 conference with my team, I am happy to report that the SASA EC have managed to address a number of initiatives that were set out for the 2010/2011 year thanks to the tremendous support received from the SASA EC members and SASA members.

I wish the incoming president Gary Sharp a successful year as president and ask the SASA EC and SASA members to provide him the relevant assistance that is needed for him to successfully complete his initiatives for 2011/12.

Pravesh Debba (President 2010/2011)

October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee has once again had a most productive year, with competitions, sponsorships and outreach activities running smoothly due to the efficient systems that have been developed in recent years.

After many years of stability in the committee, the start to this year was characterized by a few changes with Bettie Basson, Gary Sharp and Martie Muller resigning at the end of 2010. This was a major blow as each one of these loyal committee members had played a very big part in the successes of committee over the years. Only those on the SASA Education committee will truly appreciate how much each one of these members has contributed to

promote statistics education over the past few years. Though their sterling contribution will be sorely missed, the committee was very happy to welcome a new member, Warren Brettany, along with a past member, Tim Dunne, to the team. The remaining members and our new additions have worked really well together and all have contributed to the great successes that we have had this year!

Members primarily focusing on areas as follows:

Delia North	Chairperson, Education activities: schools& university
Hannah Gerber	Student Projects, Marketing
Raphael Kasonga	Link with Stats SA initiatives
Brettany, Warren	Bursaries and SASA newsletter
Verena Nolan	Secretary, Post Grad Paper Competition
Tim Dunne	ISI competition for young statisticians

Verena is our secretary and continues to do a wonderful job in this portfolio, from updating and distributing posters for student notice boards to handling all matters related to communication contacts with statistics departments. Verena not only performs the secretarial duties but is also in charge of the post graduate paper competition for MSc and PhD students.

This competition, for MSc and PhD students of Statistics, is fully sponsored by Stats SA. This year a total of 15 papers were entered from 6 universities, with prize winners as follows: T. Reddy (UKZN), K. Mauff (UCT) and M. Graham (UP).

A special bonus prize for the best paper in Official Statistics (awarded this year as Stats SA is joint host of the conference) was awarded this year. Joint-winners here were S. Salau (Wits) and J. Hakizimana (Wits).

The first prize winner of the competition is fully sponsored by Stats SA to attend the conference and present her winning entry. The judges were happy with the standard of papers presented and congratulated the prize winners. Great news is that Stats SA has now signed a MOU with SASA, so that we are assured of this sponsorship for the next five years!

Candidates studying towards a major in Statistics at tertiary institutions are invited each year to apply for the SASA bursary/scholarship, either in the category of merit or need. Warren Brettany handled all matters relating to bursaries and scholarships this year, under the mentorship of Gary Sharp. The bursary/scholarship winners for the 2011 competition were G. Williams-Wynn (UKZN) for the bursary, while the scholarships went to T. Pather (UKZN) and S. Madikane (Rhodes). Warren Brettany is further responsible for the steady flow of information in the Education section of the SASA newsletter.

The SASA student project competition was sponsored by SAS for the fifth consecutive year. Great news is that SAS has now signed a MOU with SASA, so that we are assured of this sponsorship for the next five years!

Hannah Gerber was once again fully responsible for the running of this competition. A total of 12 projects were entered from five universities this year, winners for this year are: G-W Afeltra (Wits), D. Shapiro (Wits) and S. Lalbahadur (UCT). The special prize for the project that made best use of SAS was won by A. Meiring (UP). The judges commented on the excellent standard of the projects and that there is very little difference in the quality of the top projects.

The winner of the competition, Mr. Afeltra, will further be fully sponsored by SAS to attend the conference and present his winning entry. We are greatly indebted to SAS for their continued sponsorship of this competition.

Raphael Kasonga is the committee link with developments in the area of official statistics at Stats SA. A three-day workshop was held at Roodevallei in January – attended by key people from Stats SA, representatives from universities and key people in official statistics from around the world. It is hoped this initiative will start delivering in the near future.

Though Gary Sharp left the committee his commitment to education matters is evidenced by him offering to run the 2011 SASA Education workshop during the conference. Continuing with the theme of enhancing research in Statistics, the 2011 SASA Education committee workshop is titled “Article writing for publications”. This workshop will be aimed at novice publishers in Statistics and will focus on grant writing, NRF rating, etc. This workshop forms part of the group of activities planned for the SASA conference this year, with aim to bring about awareness of statistics capacity building at tertiary level. The initiative will kick off with the plenary talk by Jackie Galpin, the Education committee invited speaker, who will lead a panel discussion on *Statistical Education and SASA’s Social Responsibility: Our Opportunity to contribute to the future SA*.

This will be followed by a talk on the showcasing of Statistics at Open Days at universities. This talk aims to showcase Statistics as a discipline of choice for incoming students with various presenters from universities around the country sharing their materials, posters and games to excite incoming students about statistics. A further key feature of showcasing statistics amongst the youth at this year’s conference, is a planned a talk on linking between statistics departments and the Stats SA initiative of maths4stats in the various provinces. Delia North will share details about the UKZN Statistics link with Stats SA office in KZN to put on a series of talks to school mathematics teachers in the province and share experiences and “know how” to assist any other universities that want to embark on a similar program.

In conclusion, I would like to thank each member of this committee for giving up their very valuable private time to further statistics education in South Africa – it is a pleasure to chair a committee of such dedicated and able people and I am sure that 2012 will be even more productive for our committee than 2011 was!

Delia North (Chairperson)

October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAREERS COMMITTEE

Two career related articles have been published in the SASA newsletter this year. The first article, by Mr. Michael Willie, a senior researcher for the Council for Medical schemes introduced readers to a brief summary of his upbringing, family life and Eastern Cape roots. He gained experience in the finance field as an equity trainee, an academic at Fort Hare and a biostatistician at Wits. The article was ideally pitched for young statisticians, and gave them a good introduction to opportunities in the statistics domain. The second article, by Mr Theodor Loots was exceptionally interesting. Theodor was a man of firsts, the first blind man in Africa to obtain a black belt in judo, the first blind man to obtain a master's degree in Mathematical Statistics and so on and so on. Theodor studied under Paul van Staden and Andriette Bekker at the University of Pretoria and is considering further study in the form of a doctoral degree in statistics. The committee would like to thank the contributors for their submissions, and to the EC members who sourced the articles.

The Careers Committee, in collaboration with the Education Committee, is planning a presentation at the annual SASA conference. The presentation is an effort to provide academics with ideas for marketing day activities, an area essential to statisticians involved in marketing endeavors.

Gary Sharp (Chairperson)

October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS COMMITTEE

No report received.

Yandiswa Mpetsheni (Chairperson)

October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ICCSSA TASK TEAM

Report will be presented at AGM.

Howard Gabriels (Chairperson: ICCSSA Task team) October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sonali Das resigned as Newsletter Editor with effect from the March 2012 issue. She will however complete the December 2011 issue.

The newsletter activity has been on track.

Sonali has offered to develop the SASA 'new' website with the help of others.

Sonali Das (Newsletter Editor) October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Online hosting of the journal:

Online hosting with Sabinet has gone into full effect this year. Members of SASA have access to all journal content on Sabinet. Thanks goes to Inger Fabris-Rotelli for organizing the scanning of older copies of the journal for online hosting. In addition, SASA was approached by EBSCO Publishing to discuss the potential of additional online exposure. After careful consideration, the EC has decided that this is not a viable second option at this point in time.

Content:

Two issues appeared in 2011 (as per usual), with seven papers in each of the issues.

Nelis Potgieter (Managing Editor) October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL EDITOR

The report of the Editor of the South African Statistical Journal since November 2010:

52 papers were received,

10 papers were accepted,

28 papers were rejected,

17 papers are currently accepted or under review (including 4 from 2010).

Both, the first and the second issues of 2011 contained 7 papers, which is overall a record year number for our journal.

The editorial board consists of the following Associate Editors: Tertius De Wet, Samuel Manda, Noel Veraverbeke, Robert Schall and Khangelani Zuma. Cornelis Potgieter is the managing editor of the journal. I would like to thank all of them for their work.

Max Finkelstein (Scientific Editor)

October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTERN CAPE CHAPTER

We have scheduled a meeting for the Western Cape Chapter of SASA to be held in Stellenbosch on 10 November this year. Prof. Narayanaswamy Balakrishnan, official guest of the 2011 SASA Conference, will be giving a talk entitled *New multi-sample nonparametric tests for panel count data*. The current chairperson, Kerry Leask, is relocating to KwaZulu-Natal at the end of this year and a new chairperson for the chapter will also be elected at this meeting.

Kerry Leask (Chairperson)

October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FREE STATE CHAPTER

The Department of Mathematical Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of the Free State hosts about 5 research seminars per term. Speakers include not only members and students of the Department but also the occasional guest from industry. We are also proud of our large scale participation at each SASA conference. Other Chapter activities include the annual workshop on energy and finance. It's sponsored by Eskom and held every March (in this case 17 and 18 March). We had invited speakers from universities in South Africa and Europe, as well as representatives from government bodies and industry. This workshop is a real highlight of our calendar.

Sean van der Merwe (Chairperson)

October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL CHAPTER

The membership of the KwaZulu-Natal Chapter is comprised of staff from the Universities of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), as well as statisticians from the MRC, CAPRISA, ARI and Durban Institute of Technology. Staff from UKZN are actively involved in the teaching of Statistics at all academic levels as well as personal research activities, while members of other institutions are involved with a number of projects targeted to their institutional objectives. The activities of the chapter are mainly talks on topics of interest. These have included talks on biostatistics, biometry, statistics education, statistical theories and methods. Notably a Seminar series on Bayesian methods using R and WinBUGS, and Bayesian Spatial epidemiology by Dr. Thomas N. O. Achia and his group. The biostatistics journal club members are regularly

meeting to discuss current biostatistics problems from CAPRISA, UKZN, and MRC. Academic staff members from the School of Statistics and Actuarial Science offered a five-weekend statistics lesson for high school teachers in Durban and Westville. Seminar in June 2011 on *Trends in multi-disciplinary HIV/AIDS research* by Prof. Christina Zarowsky, the Director of the Centre for HIV Research at the University of the Western Cape.

Temesgen Zewotir (Chairperson)

October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTERN CAPE CHAPTER

The Eastern Cape Chapter met on several occasions during 2011.

Ms Victoria Goodall, Data Manager for the SAEON (South African Environmental Observation Network) Fynbos Node based at Kirstenbosch, gave seminars at NMMU and Rhodes University on 25 and 28 February, respectively. The title of her talk was *Determining animal activity states in the Kruger National Park using Hidden Markov Models*.

Two further meetings were held on 5 and 6 May at Rhodes University and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, respectively. Dr Tom Berning, from the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Stellenbosch, presented two lectures entitled *Quantification of the stability of estimates and its application in extreme value theory* and *The perturbed Pareto distribution estimator of the extreme value index* and Ms Ivona Contardo-Berning, from the same Department, presented a lecture entitled *Phase I analysis in Statistical Process Control*.

Professor Balakrishnan from McMaster University, Ontario, Canada, will be visiting the Chapter on 8 to 9 November and will be presenting seminars at RU and NMMU.

We are again indebted to SASA for financial assistance, without which these meetings would not have been possible.

Sarah Radloff (Chairperson)

October 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIMPOPO CHAPTER

The EC had a fair amount of interaction from the Limpopo chapter this year with Caston Sigauke, Abebe Tessera, Maseka Lesaoana and Amey Alphons by Sarah Radloff initiating discussions with members from Limpopo.

The scheduled meeting and activity did not take place this year due to many participants involved in meetings regarding the 2011 census. The proposed programme to kick-off the chapter will be rescheduled to 2012.

Sarah Radloff (EC person responsible for Chapters) October 2011

INITIATIVES FOR 2011/2012: INCOMING PRESIDENT

Each year, the incoming SASA President is afforded the opportunity to put forward initiatives and plans for their period in office. A look at past initiatives has provided an opportunity to take cognisance of what has gone before; what has been successful and what has been less successful. The successes include many; a brief summary of highlights includes the closer working relationship with SASA and industry statisticians, increased participation in peer reviewed paper submissions for the conference, increased communication between SASA and other statistical associations in Africa and increased participation of black statisticians in SASA's activities. In general, the successes of past Presidents have provided diminished opportunities for future initiatives. There are however some areas for exploitation, my list is given below.

Statistics as a discipline is faced with several threats. There are more and more non-statistically trained people using statistics. Many of these are sufficiently competent to click a few buttons on a computer, get some results and report what the computer prints out. The challenge for statisticians is to convince the self-trained (or should I say un-trained) statisticians to enrol for more formal instruction. This is a dual challenge, as statisticians we need to find novel ways to encourage and increase enrolments in statistical training. It is necessary that we make our programmes interesting as well as relevant. We need to market ourselves to encourage people to follow more formal studies in the discipline. My primary initiative is to provide academic departments with ideas for marketing, support for those who seek to improve student enrolments and interesting examples and methods in the teaching of statistical techniques. Ideally, at tertiary institutions, all Science related students should have a 1st course in statistics. My objective is to pursue this agenda at an academic level.

In addition, I would like to involve younger statisticians in SASA activities. This will be done on several fronts, newsletter information and actively approaching young statisticians to participate in SASA activities. As an example, the peer-reviewing of conference papers is an activity that could include many statisticians. SASA has relied on a core of senior statisticians, Freek Lombard, Jacky Galpin, Tertius de Wet, Jan Swanepoel, Sarah Radloff, to mention just a few, it is now time that younger recruits take the reins.

In closing, I would like to support the on-going initiatives of past Presidents: support the Education Committee in its efforts to attract good students (through their project competitions and bursary awards); foster closer relationships with industry partners by supporting the joint efforts of Stats SA, SASA, Sasol, CSIR etc.; support the establishment and growth of partnerships between SASA and other African associations; and to encourage

conference participation either in the peer reviewed stream, or the non-peer reviewed stream.

Gary Sharp (Incoming President 2011/2012)

October 2011

INTERIM 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES ON 2012 BUDGET

Notes on the 2012 Budget

- The budget for 2012 includes expenses for only one official visitor, covered by the Platinum sponsorship. An additional Platinum sponsorship will ensure a second visitor.
- The SAS Platinum sponsorship of R63 000 will be utilised as follows:
 - R27 000 will be allocated towards the SASA official visitor's expenses, including subsistence.
 - R6 000 will be regarded as newsletter advertisement cost in the four issues
 - R1 000 will be regarded as website cost for advertisement button
 - The rest, R29 000, of the sponsorship will go to the conference organiser (the plenary session will be named after the Platinum sponsor).
- After discount, an overseas library pays US\$84 with estimated exchange rate of R6.60 = US\$1 and domestic library pays R95.
- Memoranda of Understanding were signed with SAS and StatsSA respectively for the next few years to insure various financial commitments. Competition prizes and bursaries form now part of the budget. StatsSA has increased their annual contribution to the running of SASA to R55000. SAS has committed itself to be the platinum sponsor for the next few years.
- Recommendation: Ordinary membership fee increase to R265 including VAT; Senior membership increase to R130 and affiliated membership to R460 per annum. Student membership will increase to R55.

Comments on the 2011 Interim financial statements

All amounts in the interim financial report represent transactions from 1 January 2011 to 30 September 2011 of all SASA bank accounts.

- Spiral account balance as on 30 September: R228 709 and on 1 January: R197 210.
- Cheque account balance as on 30 September: R133 224
- Participation bond balance as on 30 September: R10 000

Income:

- R40 000 was budgeted initially for 2011, but R60 000 received from SAS in 2011 according to MoU.
- Part of the profit from the 2010 conference (R27600) was used to sponsor a second official visitor in 2011.
- A total of 41 new members join in 2011. SASA has lost 17 memberships, some resigned and others change address, hence no payment received for 2011. 23 membership fees are outstanding for 2011 at this stage and there is a large probability that they will not renew their memberships in 2012 and will therefore be removed from the list. All membership contributions (deposits) have been traced on bank statements. Total paid-up membership: 411.
- A new initiative was launched in 2010 year whereby Statistical Departments at Universities or Research Institutions were invited to sponsor an edition of the newsletter. Two Departments have given each a R5000 sponsorship towards this (Institutional sponsorships). Stats SA paid R10 000 towards the publishing of a Census 2011 advertisement in the September newsletter.

Expenses:

- Estimated outstanding newsletter (one issue - December) expenses: R8 000.
- Bank fees also include cost on US dollar deposits for journal subscriptions.

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SASA's AGM booklet compiled by

Marie Smith (Secretary)

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