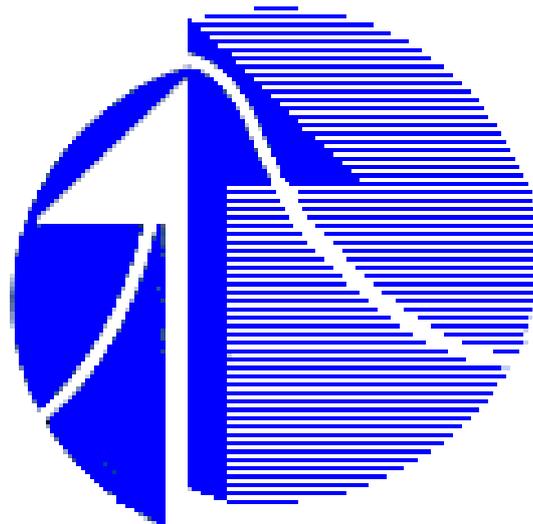


South African Statistical Association

Annual General Meeting



2012

SASA Annual General Meeting 2012

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA OF SASA TO BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2012 AT 17:30 AT NMMU**

- 1. Welcome**
 - 2. Minutes of 2011 AGM**
 - 2.1 Approval of the minutes
 - 2.2 Matters arising
 - 3. Finalising the agenda**
 - 4. Annual report of the Executive Committee 2011/2012**
 - 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 Scientific 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 2012 Interim financial statements and report
 - 7.2 Draft 2013 Budget
 - 7.3 Membership fees 2013
 - 7.4 Journal subscription fees 2013
 - 8. Initiatives of the incoming President for 2012/2013**
 - 9. Executive Committee for 2012/2013**
 - 9.1 Vice-President
 - 9.2 Treasurer
 - 9.3 Newsletter Editor
 - 10. SASA Conference 2013**
 - 10.1 Hosts
 - 10.2 Invited Guests
 - 11. Additional matters**
 - 11.1 Formation of a Statistical Classification and Data Analysis group
 - 11.2 New newsletter format
 - 11.3 Report by ICCSSA Chair
 - 12. Closing**
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION HELD ON TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2011 AT THE CSIR

1. **Welcome**

The president, Pravesh Debba, welcomed all members to the 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM booklets were made available earlier in the day so that everyone had already had a chance to read through them.

2. **Minutes of 2010 AGM**

2.3 **Approval of the minutes**

The minutes were approved with some editorial changes.

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 2010/2011**

The president highlighted some important aspects and the report was taken as read and accepted.

5. **Annual report of Fellowship Committee**

The following awards have been made:

Honorary members Linda Haines, Freek Lombard and Theo Stewart
Fellows: Trevor Hastie, Mary Lou Thompson

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 **Official Statistics Committee**

(a) Census 2011

Census 2011 has occupied most of the activities of the Official Statistics Committee. Data collection by 156000 fieldworkers took place on 10-31 October 2011. Thereafter, fieldwork coordinators will conduct mop-up operations for two weeks.

At the end of the data collection period, 98% of the households had been visited. These included those households where enumerations were completed, where enumerators could not find people and where enumerators were refused. The mop-up phase focused on the non-contacts and refusals.

(b) NSSS activities

The SASQAF tool has been updated. In preparation for the SASQAF rollout, all the NSS Coordinators in the provinces have been trained. SASQAF is being implemented internally for the QLFS and CPI

Stats SA is working closely with the following department: SAPS, DPSA, DST, and DTI. Stats SA has deployed some of its staff to the DST and DTI.

Stats SA is also working on the Rules Document and is consulting with other stakeholders in government.

(c) Training Institute

Early this year Stats SA conducted a Curriculum Development workshop where a number of stakeholders participated. Currently the consultants are finalizing the materials for the Diploma in Official Statistics.

The pilot for the Certificate in Official Statistics was completed in March 2011. This was followed by internal and external moderation through PSETA. The candidates will graduate at the end of 2011. The next intake will be after the materials have been converted from unit standards to modules, in 2012.

(d) Internship programme

The 2011 Interns will be completing their internship at the end of the year. Fifty three (53) graduates participated in the 2011 Internship programme. The 2012 Internship programme intake process is at the interview phase, after making presentations at universities and conducting competency tests.

(e) Collaborations with Tertiary and other Institutions

Stats SA is in collaboration with other institutions. A number of MOUs have been signed with UKZN, Wits University, Stellenbosch and UCT. Stats SA has also signed an MOU with SASA.

6.4 ICCSSA Task Team

(a) Introduction

In January 2009 a group of Statisticians mainly working the private sector decided to establish a Task Team to investigate the establishment of an Institute that will promote the professional status of statisticians working in the private sector. It was agreed then that this Institute would be established as part of SASA. At the last AGM of SASA the constitution was amended to provide for the establishment of an Associated Society and SASA accepted ICCSSA as the first Associated Society.

(b) Launch of ICCSSA

After much work was done by a dedicated team of people ICCSSA was formally launched on 13 June 2011. Minister Trevor Manuel was the key note speaker at the launch and the Statistician General also attended. The launch was well attended by many statisticians working within the private sector. Senior representatives from a number of businesses also attended the launch including the Mr. Brian Dames, CEO of Eskom, Dr. Sven Godorr, MD of SASOL Technology Research and Development.

(c) Board Members

The members of the Board of Directors of ICCSSA are:

Mr. Howard Gabriels (Chairperson); Dr. Vincent Micali (Deputy Chairperson); Ms Dineo Ratlagana; Dr. Pravesh Debba; Ms. Yoko Chhana; Dr. Roelof Coetzer; Prof. Delia North; Ms. Valentina Litvine; Prof. Igor Litvine; Prof. Daan De Waal; Mr. Phillip Steyn; Dr. Herrie Van Rooy; Dr. Rolf Becker (SACNASP); Dr. Dries De Wet

(d) Board Meetings during the year

The Board held five meeting during the year on the following dates:

- 22 January 2011; 22 March 2011; 27 May 2011; 30 June 2011 and 1 September 2011.
- A further meeting will be held during the SASA Conference.

(e) Vision and Goals of ICCSSA

ICCSSA adopted the following vision:

“ICCSSA is the essential body for practising statisticians, establishing a united and collaborative environment by recognising, empowering, providing true representation and continuously improving the competency of statisticians with the aim to be a respected, professional and well governed organisation.”

The long-term goals of ICCSSA are:

- To become a respected professional organisation;
- To unify the needs of business and tertiary educational institutions
- To become a true representative of professional statisticians
- Ensure the empowerment of professional statisticians
- To give formal recognition to professional statisticians
- Ensure the continuous improvement of professional statisticians
- To create a collaborative environment for professional statisticians
- To become the essential body representing practicing statisticians.

(f) Continuous Professional Development

A task team was established to investigate various aspects of a programme for continuous development.

(g) Administration and Website

The administrative processes are being established and the website was launched: www.iccssa.co.za.

(h) Conclusion

A sincere word of appreciation to the members of Board of Directors.

6.5 Newsletter

The report was taken as read and accepted.

6.6 Managing Editor of Journal

The report was taken as read and accepted.

6.7 Scientific Editors of Journal

The report was taken as read and accepted.

6.8 Western Cape Chapter

The report was taken as read and accepted.

6.9 Free State Chapter

The report was taken as read and accepted.

6.10 KwaZulu-Natal Chapter

The report was taken as read and accepted.

6.11 Eastern Cape Chapter

The report was taken as read and accepted.

6.12 Limpopo Chapter

No report was received because of inactivity.

7. Financial matters

7.1 2011 Interim Financial Statements

The report was taken as read and accepted.

7.2 Draft Budget 2012

The budget as presented in the AGM booklet was approved.

7.3 Membership Fees 2012

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. (That is the increase as accepted at the 2010 AGM.)

7.3 Journal Subscription Fees

After discount, an overseas library pays US\$84 with estimated exchange rate of R6.60 = US\$1 and domestic library pays R95.

8. Initiatives of the incoming President for 2010/2011

The incoming president, Gary Sharp, listed his main initiative as investigating the teaching of statistics by non-statistics departments, and secondly, the encouragement of young statisticians to be more involved in SASA.

9. Executive Committee for 2011/2012

The nominations received were as follows:

9.1 Vice-President

Roelof Coetzer was elected unopposed.

9.2 Treasurer

Paul Mostert was elected unopposed.

9.3 Managing Editor of the SASJ

James Allison was elected unopposed.

9.4 Member Responsible for Sponsorships

Yoko Chhana was elected unopposed.

9.5 Co-opted Members

Mardi Jankowitz was co-opted as newsletter editor for 2012 and Inger Fabris-Rotelli was co-opted as secretary for 2012.

10. SASA Conference 2012

The host for the 2012 SASA conference is NMMU.

11. Additional matters

11.1 Institute of Applied Statistics

Tim Dunne introduced the institute. It is a non-profit organization which promotes statistics and has Old Mutual and Prudential as its main sponsors.

The Institute of Applied Statistics (IAS) is a non-profit organisation (NPO) and a registered public benefit organisation (PBO). The current CEO is Professor Daniel Polakow, who holds an adjunct position in the Department of Actuarial Science, University of Cape Town, but is specialist in Finance.

The IAS has set itself 4 major nationwide projects 5. These projects collectively address the current crisis for the future of statistics in South Africa, namely insufficient numbers of talented and outstanding students committing to post graduate studies, and exploring the possibility of academic careers.

Programme 1 - Secondary Schools Outreach

This outreach programme is an initiative to raise the awareness of statistical mathematics at secondary school level and to develop an appreciation this skill amongst learners. Young statisticians visit promising schools and prizes are awarded to outstanding achievers in mathematics.

Programme 2 - Undergraduate Skills Acceleration

In collaboration with a number of national universities, IAS targets skilled undergraduate students who are in financial need will be targeted for top-ups to their own funding.

Programme 3 - National Postgraduate Retention

IAS has a university postgraduate scholarship programme seeking both exceptional students and students in financial need. In order to bolster the art and science of statistics in South Africa, IAS seeks to support the recruitment and retention of skilled young lecturers and researchers

providing higher education in the discipline. Initially the emphasis has been on Masters level studies, but IAS intends to support PhD students as it builds its donor base

Programme 4: Statistics in SA – Support and Awareness

This project supports the bespoke needs and worthy occasional projects brought to IAS attention from within the statistical sciences academic fraternity. The objective is skill support where conventional support through ordinary structures is absent or lacking. The eclectic nature of this programme has supported a number of national initiatives including software purchases for university departments, sending young and/or financially constrained staff to events at which they can acquire critical skills.

Website

<http://www.institute-applied-statistics.org.za>

11.2 New Format of SASJ

There was no resistance to enlarging the size of the journal. It was pointed out that the cover colour is odd, and we should think about changing it.

It was also requested that the online journal (Sabinet) be available freely to members. It will be investigated what is the best way to do this.

It was also requested that the peer-reviewed SASA conference proceedings be made available somewhere – perhaps Sabinet as well.

11.3 Standards Generating Body (SGB)

The members should be informed about the dissolution of the Statistics SGB. Below a copy of the letter written to SR by Eddie Brown.

The role of the Statistics SGB

We have been informed by the Acting Director, Directorate Registration and Recognition, SAQA, Mr Eddie Brown, that all the SGBs and NSBs that were established by SAQA no longer exist or have a role to fulfil.

His letter reads:

“With the implementation of the NQF Act on 1 July 2009 (which replaces the SAQA Act), the responsibility for qualification generation and quality assurance was assigned to the three Quality Councils, viz. the CHE, Umalusi and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO). This means that all the SGBs and NSBs that were established by SAQA no longer exist or have a role to fulfil.

Amongst other responsibilities, SAQA's role is to register qualifications that are recommended to it by the QCs if they meet the criteria for registration. This means that if a group of people, a sector or a provider

of education and training wants to have a qualification registered on the NQF, they have to approach the relevant QC. In the case of your qualifications they would seem to be CHE qualifications and they would need to be submitted to them by the provider institutions using CHE on-line application procedures. Occupational qualifications must go to the QCTO and you should contact Mr Mphuthing in that regard."

This point will be removed from the agenda for future meetings.

13. Closing

The chairperson thanked all members for their support and attending this AGM.

ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2011/2012

The 2012 year end is fast approaching and my time as President is almost over. I have been privileged to have had the support of an executive committee (EC) who have willingly given of their time and expertise. To each member of the EC, thank you for the way you have gone about your tasks and the support you have given me and the association over the last twelve months. Without your commitment, this would have been an unenviable task, instead it has been a pleasure to work with you. In your capable hands, the statistics community of South Africa can feel assured that issues addressing the discipline are receiving the necessary attention.

The SASA EC comprises thirteen members. The members represent both academic and corporate entities and are diverse in demographic representation such as age, gender and race. Each member has a specific portfolio and in some cases have sub-committees to assist with the tasks of the portfolio.

The SASA education committee is chaired by Professor Delia North. Delia has been ably supported by colleagues, Ms Verena Nolan, Professor Tim Dunne, Dr Raphael Kasonga, Ms Hannah Kroon and Mr Warren Brettenny. On behalf of the SASA committee, I take this opportunity to thank Delia and her team for their efforts over the last twelve months. Throughout the course of this year, the education committee have overseen the SAS sponsored student honours project competition, the post-graduate paper competition sponsored by Stats SA, SASA sponsored bursaries for third year students, a Stats SA sponsored competition to attend the ISI in Hong Kong in 2013 and extensive teacher training workshops. To having successfully completed these activities is an indication that members of committee are engaged in the association's activities and this bodes well for the future. SASA members have been kept apprised of these activities and the award winners through the association's newsletters.

An addition to the education committee's tasks this year has seen the introduction of a SAS sponsored scholarship. This prestigious award will be made for the first time in 2013 and is open to all students who will be enrolled for a statistics honours degree at a South African university. The award, valued at R20 000, will be based on the assessment of a short essay on a statistical topic and the applicants academic standing.

I would like to thank the sponsors of the various competitions, SAS and Stats SA, for their willingness to contribute to the development of the profession and the association's activities. The tasks of this committee need committed members who are willing to give of them time and expertise. I urge the younger members to consider making themselves available to serve on a SASA committee, an ideal stepping stone would be to serve on the education committee.

It gives me pleasure to report to the members the positive news about the SASA journal. This year has seen the publication of sixteen papers in the SASJ, a far cry from the days when an edition appeared with two papers. Credit for the management of the journal goes to Dr James Allison who has overseen this phenomenal growth. Additional good news is that the journal will be included in the international bibliographical social science list (IBSS). This listing elevates the status of the journal to international level and should increase the visibility of the journal. In 2013, the process of applying for ISI accreditation will begin. Efforts to increase the profile of the journal have seen publications of papers by the SASA conference guests. A review paper by Professor Balakrishnan is expected in one of the 2013 volumes. I would like to thank James, the journal editor, Professor Max Finkelstein, and the subject editors and reviewers for their efforts in achieving this throughput.

Professor Paul Mostert has been the SASA treasurer for the past few years. Under his watchful eye, the financial sustainability of the association has prospered. Paul has kept excellent control over the finances and his knowledge, with respect to Government finance laws, has been a huge asset. Specific financial details are provided in Paul's report, in summary the expenses for 2012 are close to the budget tabled in 2011. The expenses are provisional as minor year end expenses still need to be deducted. After much deliberation, the EC have recommended a nominal membership increase from R265 to R280, an increase of 5.7%. Senior and student membership remains unchanged. The motivation for this increase is to cover inflationary costs and provide extra financial support for the third year student bursaries. As Paul is due to take over the role of Vice-President, he will no longer be available as Treasurer. On behalf of the SASA members, I thank him for his patience and meticulous efforts in keeping the finances in good stead. I wish him all the best for his new role as Vice-President.

I am pleased to report that the position of the SASA newsletter editor will be filled by Dr Mardi Jankowitz. Earlier this year Mardi took over from Dr Sonali Das who, for personal reasons, was unavailable. Mardi has been interim editor for 2012 but will now fill the post for the next three years. I take this opportunity to thank Mardi for her efforts; she has done an excellent job keeping members informed of SASA activities. The newsletter is the EC's primary method of communication with the members and Mardi has ensured that the flow of communication has been regular.

The EC's secondary method of communication is the SASA website. For several years now, the website has been the responsibility of Paul Mostert. This year has seen a change as a new website has been developed and will be maintained by Ms Inger Fabris-Rotelli. Inger has joined the EC as secretary and given her computational expertise has agreed to maintain the website. Inger has done an excellent job as SASA secretary and under her control the administrative affairs of the association have been exemplary. I would like to thank Inger for her support these past twelve months, she has made an invaluable contribution to the running of SASA affairs.

I would like to extend my appreciation to several other EC members. Dr Leonard Santana who has been the chapter liaison person and will be assisting with judging of a SAS sponsored analytics prize at the annual conference. Leonard has also addressed career related queries, a function previously covered by the careers committee. Thanks are also extended to Ms Yoko Chhana for her efforts at securing sponsorships for SASA. Yoko has spent many an hour in discussions and negotiations with SASA's two big sponsors, Stats SA and SAS. The signing of a formal memorandum of understanding with both institutions has simplified the manner in which many of the other EC members can tackle their tasks. These include competition prizes awarded by the education committee, the website development and running of the association's affairs. In addition, I would like to thank Mr Howard Gabriels for informative reports about ICCSSA's progress as well as matters pertaining to the Stats Council. Howard has resigned as ICCSSA chair and has been replaced by Dr Vince Micali. The EC welcomes Vince, a familiar face within the South African statistics community. To the Stats SA representatives, Dr Mbulaheni Nthangeni and Ms Yandiswa Mpethseni, your reports to the EC are appreciated.

My intention when starting this report was brevity, as I continue, I realise just how much has been accomplished over the year. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Pravesh Debba. Pravesh has been a constant source of information and support. He has provided me with a sounding board for discussing sensitive issues and his insight has vastly improved the quality of the discussion and undoubtedly the outcome. In addition, Pravesh has contributed to the EC on several matters. Pravesh was instrumental in securing Prof Bala's commitment to submit a review paper for SASJ. He provided support to Yoko during the sponsorship negotiations and last but not least, Pravesh has chaired the Fellowship and Honorary members committee. To Dr Roelof Coetzer, incoming President of the association, thank you for completing the editorial duties of the 2012 SASA conference proceedings. The first published proceedings were in 2010 and since then there have been three publications. The proceedings provide researchers, particularly young developing students, with an opportunity for DoHET accredited publication whilst affording them an opportunity for critical review and oral presentation. SASA members are requested to use this platform as a step to further the association's efforts to encourage research publication.

I extend my appreciation to the SASA 2012 conference organising committee, Dr Johan Hugo, Ms Rae Vincent-Le Roux, Mr Warren Brettenny and Ms Chantelle Clohessy. The planning of the conference is a huge undertaking and the efforts of this team have seen the conference been hosted by NMMU

in Port Elizabeth. On behalf of the SASA EC, we wish you a successful conference.

In closing, the administrative burden carried by the voluntary EC members has increased tremendously over the years I have served on the committee. As the association continues to grow and we strive to reach more and more people, it may be time for the association to appoint a part-time administrator. The association is fast reaching the point where the EC's voluntary activities need administrative support.

The SASA EC wish all SASA members a pleasant summer break and peaceful festive period.

Gary Sharp (President 2011/2012)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The fellowship committee for 2012 comprised of the last six SASA presidents, namely, Pravesh Debba (chairperson), Yoko Chhana, Herrie van Rooy, Khangelani Zuma, Immo Kleinschmidt and Francois van Graan.

Based on the feedback and constructive criticism that was received after last year's awards, SASA EC recommended that the committee members should all meet to discuss each nomination as the wording in the criteria for these awards could be very subjectively interpreted. Voting will still take place by confidential ballot and thereby remain anonymous. Due to the unavailability of all six SASA presidents in September and October, a meeting could not be arranged. However, there were individual feedbacks from the committee members regarding the wording in the criteria for Fellow being very narrowly defined. SASA EC would look into this and propose a way forward. It was also suggested that the committee move away from unanimous vote to majority vote. Both these suggestions require changes in the constitution of SASA.

The call for nominations for both Honorary Members and Fellows of SASA appeared in the March and June 2012 SASA newsletter. SASA received two nominations for Fellows and seven nominations for Honorary Member. SASA is happy to announce that this year there would be several awards for Honorary Member of SASA and also a Fellow Award of SASA.

Congratulations to all the successful Fellows and Honorary Members of SASA and a special thanks to those who have taken the time to nominate deserving candidates by submitting a motivation and arranging for their CVs to be sent in within the deadline. Finally, SASA thanks the six past presidents of SASA for their time and dedication to review each of the nine applications received.

Pravesh Debba

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The SASA 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 over the years. This year was characterized by a number of new competitions and opportunities for advancement of Statistics amongst undergraduate and post-graduate students.

The committee welcomed back an old stalwart to join the team again – Prof Tim Dunne! He was approached to re-join our committee as his experience and knowledge was in high demand for the smooth running of the various new competitions which resulted from the signing of 5-year MOU's between SASA and Stats SA, as well as SAS. The whole committee worked really well together and all have contributed to the great successes in 2012!

Members primarily focus on areas as follows:

Delia North : Chairperson, Education activities: schools& university

Hannah Gerber : Student Projects, Marketing

Raphael Kasonga : Link with STATS SA initiatives

Warren Brettenny : Bursaries & SASA newsletter

Verena Nolan : Secretary, Post Grad Paper Competition

Tim Dunne : Competition for young statisticians to ISI, SAS essay competition

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 ten papers were entered, with UCT winning all three prizes!!! The first prize winner, Darren Williams, will present his entry, "Common components to construct bi-plots for three-mode data", at the annual SASA Conference at NMMU this year (fully sponsored by Stats SA). The judges were happy with the standard of papers presented and congratulated the prize winners.

A new competition, defined during the setting up of the MOU between Stats SA and SASA. This competition was advertised in the SASA newsletters and websites where it was mentioned that 10 young statisticians would be selected, based on best papers submitted, to attend and deliver their papers at ISI2013 (WSC Hong Kong). There has been tremendous response with 148 entries (many from outside the borders of South Africa) being received, a daunting task for Tim and his judges! The Stats SA sponsorship is mainly

geared towards selecting prize winners that are SA citizens (ideally Black African) with some few prizes in particular being reserved for papers in Official Statistics. Further funding has been secured from World Bank through ISI to ensure that at least ten winners go to Hong Kong.

Candidates, in second year of study, that intend studying towards a major in Statistics, are invited each year to apply for the SASA bursary/scholarship, either in the category of merit or need. Warren Brettany handles all matters relating to this competition. The first merit prize for 2012 went to S. Singh from UKZN, while the two bursaries, where need had been demonstrated, along with academic excellence, went to two students from UWC.

Warren Brettany is further responsible for the steady flow of information in the Education section of the SASA newsletter.

Though the SASA student honours project competition was sponsored by SAS for the sixth consecutive year, the MOU between Stats SA and SAS defined a series of sponsorships and opportunities for the development of Statistics at various levels, including the continued sponsorship of the honours competition.

Hannah Gerber was once again fully responsible for the running of this competition. A total of 14 projects were entered from five universities this year, with Ettienne Pienaar from UCT taking first prize and second and third prize going to students from Wits and UCT. Mr Pienaar will further be fully sponsored by SAS to attend the conference and present his winning entry. The judges commented on the excellent standard of the projects and noted that there was very little difference in the quality of the top projects.

A new competition, mentioned in the MOU with SAS, is geared at third year students going into honours. Tim Dunne is also administering this competition on behalf of the Education Committee and aims to select third year Statistics major students, based on an essay/project entry, to be awarded a R20000 scholarship towards studies for an Honours degree in Statistics at any South African University.

Each year the SASA conference presents the opportunity for the committee to identify an invited plenary speaker as well as present a workshop. The committee is very proud to announce that Prof Tertius de Wet (US) is the 2012 plenary speaker, while the workshop will be on "Improving Teaching of Statistics at Higher Education Institutions" and will be jointly presented by Delia North (UKZN) and Hannah Gerber (UCT).

Following the hosting of the ISI congress in Durban in 2009, the SASA Education committee decided to liaise with the annual SASA conference organizers and Stats SA to ensure that an afternoon program for local teachers, presented by maths4stats provincial organizers (trained by Delia North and Jackie Scheiber), runs as a separate stream each year. This is to ensure that the maths4stats teacher training program benefits teachers from

different parts of South Africa and adds-on to the well-defined maths4stats provincial training that is organized by Stats SA.

So, all in all, the committee can report that 2012 has been a bumper year with many opportunities for advancement of Statistics education amongst the youth, from school to post grad level.

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 2013 will be even more productive for our committee than 2012 was!

Delia North (Chairperson)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAREERS COMMITTEE

Women in Science

We decided not to nominate someone for the Women in science award this year due to complications with the nomination process.

Young Statisticians starting their careers

We have continued with this initiative in the SASA newsletter whereby we invite young individuals working in statistical based careers. A number of candidates were approached and their stories were printed in the newsletter.

Young Statisticians using Analytics award from SAS

This year marks the first year that SAS will be sponsoring a “Young Statisticians using Analytics” award at this year’s conference. There have been a large number of entrants and it seems to have successfully motivated younger delegates to present their work at the conference.

Leonard Santana (Chairperson)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS COMMITTEE

No report received.

Yandiswa Mpetsheni (Chairperson)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ICCSSA BOARD

1. INTRODUCTION

The preliminary workings that started in 2008, were followed by the acceptance of ICCSSA by SASA as an Associated Society with its bye-laws and their acceptance in the SASA constitution. The Institute was launched on the 13 June 2011 by the Hon. Min. Trevor Manuel. The occasion was hosted by the Eskom Chief Executive, Mr Brian Dames, supported by our Statistician General Pali Lehohla and attended by various VIPs from Eskom, Sasol, CSIR, SAS, Enerweb, other influential Industries and Banking fraternities. The Hon. Minister issued the Institute with a Charter which was gracefully received on behalf of our Members by our Chairman, Mr Howard Gabriels. This Charter forms the credential under which the Institute operates and belongs to the Membership of ICCSSA. A copy of our Charter is given at the end of this report. Essentially ICCSSA provides SASA with a direct professional body where the Members of SASA have the opportunity to register.

The past year has been a year with many challenges for the Institute, and thanks to the Directors that have moved with dedication, passion, agility, integrity and many hours of voluntary work, the Institute was able to move ahead with its projects and place it in a position credible to Industry so much so that the sponsorship is expected to bear fruits to the ICCSSA Membership for this year and hopefully for the years ahead.

As the incoming Chairman, my vote of gratitude goes to all the Directors of the Board for their fantastic efforts done in the past year, and I trust that they will continue in the year ahead with the new challenges facing us. Their families and dear ones, who stood next to them in this year's endeavours, are also sincerely thanked.

As ICCSSA, we are exceptionally grateful to our Sponsors and in that order: StatsSA, SAS, Enerweb, Eskom, Sasol and SACNASP who contributed in funds, resources and material towards the programmes initiated by the Institute for its membership.

2. BOARD of DIRECTORS

Owing to working pressures our Chairman tendered his resignation but the Board unanimously decided to retain Mr Gabriels' competence on the Board; he therefore retains a Director's position on the ad-hoc basis. Dr D de Wet (ABSA) unfortunately resigned from the Board because of time constraints. Due to financial limitations in the ability of attending Board meetings the following Directors were retained as Shadow Members: Prof. Delia North (UKZN) and Prof. Daan de Waal (UFS). Dr Roelf Becker (SACNASP) was co-opted as a Director for collaborative linkage with SACNASP. Prof. Jacky Galpin joining the Board is pending her acceptance upon a formal request. The Institute was finally registered as a Non-Profit Organisation on the 22 February 2012.

Names	Institution	Board Function
Dr V Micali	Eskom	Chairman
Dr P Debba	CSIR (SASA EC)	Deputy-Chairman
Ms V Litvine	African Bank	Financial Director
Ms D Ratlhagana	Eskom	Secretariat
Dr R Coetzer	Sasol (SASA EC)	Director
Prof. I Litvine	NMMU	Director
Dr R Becker	SACNASP	Director
Mr P Steyn	Multisoft	Director
Ms Y Chhana	Wits (SASA EC)	Director
Mr H Gabriels	Stats Council	Director
Prof J Galpin	Wits	<i>Pending</i>
<i>SHADOW MEMBERS</i>		
Prof D De Waal	University of Free State	Councillor
Prof. D North	UKZN	Councillor

3. PAST YEAR'S INITIATIVES

The governance of the board subscribes to the Kings III report and the ICCSSA bye-laws. Thirteen board meetings were held in total two of which resulted in no-quorum. Minutes of the meetings are held by the Secretariat and are available to ICCSSA Members on special written request to the Board indicating the purpose and objective in the request.

3.1. Membership

The Board is striving to achieve professional registration in the most efficient and effective manner and safeguard the professional integrity of all its registered Members. There are many challenges in this respect and an intervention at the AGM by the Membership of SASA will be required on the way forward for the Board (***Ref. also par. 3.7***).

3.2. Interaction with Universities

Some Directors interacted with Universities (where time and opportunities permitted) and promoted the ICCSSA proposals in the Continued Professional Development (CPD) initiatives. This programme is still evolving

3.3. Accreditation by ICCSSA of external Statistical Sciences courses

To be an accrediting body ICCSSA needs to register as such with the Government. The registration fee being quite substantial, the Directors are working hard at obtaining the necessary funds and put the submission in for the Government to evaluate.

3.4. Sponsorships

Sponsorship categories were created and various Businesses were successfully approached by our Directors. The details are reflected in the Financial Director's report. Suffice it to say that the categories are presently

as follows: Platinum: ≥ R 100,000.00, Gold: ≥ R 50,000.00, Silver: ≥ R 25,000.00, Bronze ≥ R 10,000.00

3.5. Convention

The 1st Convention was held in Cape Town on the 28-29 March 2012 and followed up by a Workshop on the 30 March 2012. It is the opinion of the Board that for a first convention the results were positive and these are reflected also in the Financial Director's report.

Two outlets are available for publications: The SASA Journal and FAME

3.6. Marketing

The Board saw it fit to engage at promoting a professional image of ICCSSA and its Membership, it engaged with a company named Perceptions to achieve such an objective. This company made excellent concessions to the Institute at "value for money" costs-cuts, with the intention of having a long term relationship with the Institute. The results seem promising.

3.7. Liaison with Industry

Liaisons with Industry and Financial Institutions is moving from strength to strength in terms of support in the belief of the need of such an Institute. The major risk is not having enough members registering which could consequently lead to loss of credibility. To this the Board decided that it will propose to the AGM as a minimum the following:

A] That Certified Copied of Degrees from National Universities with Statistical Sciences (or a subject e.g. Econometrics) as a Major is acceptable as a qualification; transcripts are optional or on demand by the Board.

B] International degrees would have to follow the SAQA route as per SACNASP

C] Two referees' reports would be required

The above will be reflected in the registration form

Due to the strong support from Industry and since ICCSSA is an NPO, the Board decided to waiver the administration and registration fees for this year to its Members. It will strive to do the same for next year, conditions permitting. Again this would have not been possible without the sustainability that Industry has demonstrated towards the Institute in supporting our operations as detailed above. Credit will be given to them throughout our marketing initiatives as duly deserved.

4. YEAR AHEAD

Plans for the year ahead will be presented at the AGM. Main items will include:

A] Initiatives resulting from AGM

B] Memberships registrations

C] Governmental Registrations

D] Convention: 19-21 June 2013 (Gauteng) to precede ISBASA 26-28 June (RU) and MMR 1-4 July (US) so that costs for invited speakers can be shared.

E] Board Meeting dates publicised in web site (also to inform Members when evaluations take place)

5. CONCLUSION

This year has proven a steep learning curve for the Board of Directors, not only in dealing with passionate strong personalities, but also in dealing with

pertinent issues that require the work of diligent and dedicated people. I am truly honoured of working with all of them and the faith that they have in me in leading this Board. Herewith is my pledge to serve them well and, just as well, I will serve the Membership of ICCSSA and the Sponsors that have sustained us all along.

Financial Director's report

NPO Registration: 22 February 2012 Reg No.: 2012/034629/08

ICCSA Financial Report – for SASA AGM, November 2012

Prepared by Valentina Litvine

Start: 1 January 2012

End: 30 October 2012

Financial year-end on 31 December. Audited results will be presented at the next AGM.

Income

Sponsorships:	
Enerweb	R 50 000.00
SAS	R 20 000.00
Other	R 100.00
Convention registration fees	R 84 500.00
Membership fees	R 5 320.00
Total Income:	R 159 920.00

In addition, we received a sponsorship from StatsSA for the Convention. Payment to the value of R100,000 (approx.) was made by StatsSA directly to Lagoon Beach Hotel.

Expenses

Banking fees	R 1 309.36
Company registration	R 1 900.00
Convention (March 2012):	
Gala Dinner decor and entertainment	R 16 944.86
Printing	R 3 207.50
Special thanks to organisers	R 1 000.00
Post box	R 334.00
Consulting fees:	
Payments made to date	R 55 000.00
Payments outstanding	R 25 000.00
Marketing & Website:	
Payments made to date	R 15 777.60
Payments to be made on completion of work	R 15 777.60
Total Actual Expenses:	R 95 473.32
Total Expenses as Projected:	R 134 941.56
Actual balance as on 30 October 2012	R 64 446.68
Balance as projected on 30 October 2012	R 24 978.44

CHARTER

INSTITUTE OF CERTIFICATED AND CHARTERED STATISTICIANS

**OF
SOUTH AFRICA
(ICCSSA)**



CHARTER

The Institute of Certificated and Chartered Statisticians of South Africa (ICCSSA) is herewith launched as an Associated Society of the South African Statistics Association (SASA) to operate according to the laws of South Africa and its bye-laws with the purpose of establishing a united and collaborative environment by recognizing, empowering and providing true representation and continuously improving the abilities of statisticians and to be a respected, professional and well governed organization.

This purpose will be implemented and managed by the ICCSSA board of Directors

Launched on the 13 June 2011, in Sunninghill
At the Franklin Auditorium, Megawatt Park

By

Hon. Min. Trevor Manuel: Minister in the Presidency
(National Planning Commission)

Accepted by: Mr. Howard Gabriels (ICCSSA Chairman)

Vince Micali (Chairperson: ICCSSA Board)

November 2012



1st November 2012

**QUARTERLY REPORT-BACK OF THE INSTITUTE OF APPLIED
STATISTICS
TO THE SASA EC
(July 2012 – June 2013)**

Dear SASA EC

Prelude

Please find below an informal first quarterly report-back of IAS's activities for the 2013 year.

We first note our four programmes below for clarity

- I. Programme 1 - Secondary Schools Outreach**
An initiative to raise the awareness (and the excitement) of statistical mathematics at secondary school level. The objective is skill appreciation.
- II. Programme 2 - Undergraduate Skills Acceleration**
This programme is a collaborative effort between the Institute of Applied Statistics and a number of national universities. Undergraduate students that are both skilled and in financial need are targeted as a subject of top-ups. The objective is skill acceleration and development.
- III. Programme 3 - National Postgraduate Retention**
Exceptional postgraduate students and those with financial need are targeted. The objective is skill retention.
- IV. Statistics in SA – Support and Awareness Project 4**
A project that supports bespoke needs amongst the statistical sciences academic fraternity. The objective is skill support.

Introduction

This period (July 2012 – June 2013) comprises the second year of full financial support of IAS. Here we recount the progress of the year to date (July 2012 – present). Like the previous year, IAS has continued working hard this year with the difference that this year we have established considerably more momentum across activities and traction in all of the universities, the various schools across the country as well as in the operational efficiency of running IAS. We are known nationally by most statisticians and research personnel across South Africa, and we field requests and queries from the national catchment almost daily.

We summarize each Programme below and report on the current status of the project relative to the nominated deliverables.

Programme 1 – Status Summary

All the schools we visited last year have welcomed us back this year. This is most encouraging as it shows the enthusiasm for Statistics by the principals and teachers of the schools and this enthusiasm is passed on to the school students.

As per last year, our scholarship holders visit the schools and give a short presentation to the whole school, or just the Grade 11 and 12s. They announce the awards which the school will present on IAS's behalf at year end: R500, R300 and R200 to the top 3 Grade 11 Maths students, as well as a netbook to the top Grade 12 Maths student. Our scholars then attend a Grade 11 Maths class and chat to the students about Statistics. We distribute pamphlets on careers in statistics to the students, and field any questions the Grade 11's might have regarding university, bursaries and scholarships, and tertiary studies in general. The school students find this interaction with our scholarship holders very helpful.

We have re-visited the following schools which we first visited last year:

1. LEAP 1 in Pinelands, Cape Town
2. LEAP 2 in Pinelands, Cape Town
3. LEAP 3 in Johannesburg
4. Christel House in Ottery, Cape Town
5. United Church School in Johannesburg
6. Harvest High School in Ladysmith, KZN
7. Cape Academy of Maths, Science & Technology in Constantia, Cape Town

We have also visited the following schools for the first time this year:

1. Sekolo sa Borokgo in Johannesburg
2. COSAT in Khayelitsha, Cape Town
3. Claremont High School in Claremont, Cape Town
4. Inanda Seminary in Durban, KZN
5. Mfuleni High School in Blue Downs, Cape Town
6. Get Ahead College in Queenstown, Eastern Cape
7. Ngubencuka Senior Secondary School in Queenstown, Eastern Cape
8. Navalsig High School in Bloemfontein

We have had very positive feedback both from the schools visited as well as our scholarship holders. We have made contact with the Maths4Stats Free State co-ordinator, Lucia Janse van Rensburg, and she has assisted us with contacting various schools in Bloemfontein. We look forward to a more encouraging uptake from some of these schools next year and will continue with our efforts in this regard.

Our intended outcome was to create contacts with 10 keys schools each year and visit each by June 2013. We are happy to report that 15 schools have been visited so far this year alone. We will re-start the outreach programme in mid-2013. We cannot do more this year as the school exam season prohibits visits from mid-October.

Programme 2 - Status Summary

Programme 2, our skills-acceleration initiative, began effectively early in 2012 with the awarding of top-up prizes to underprivileged undergraduate students on the basis of need and merit. What is vitally important at this stage is that the contacts at the primary universities in South Africa are established, and that the requisite understanding with each university is determined (and associated legal documentation finalized).

- UCT – an amount of R150,000 was disbursed to UCT. This was distributed to the following students as per detailed discussions with Tasneem Salasa from the UCT financial-aid office and after perusal by IAS of the students' university results: Khwezi Daba, Zola Mahlaza, Lerato Diratsagae, Sakumi Mpushe, Sean Werthen, Tshwarelo Mohlala and Mphoentle Monnedi.
- UFS – After discussions with Professor Robert Schall of UFS and Sarah Harris of the UFS financial-aid office, an amount of R60,000 was disbursed to UFS early in 2012. R15,000 was disbursed to each of the following students: Susan Majara, Odirile Tlale, Vuledzani Pholi and Modiehi Mokoena. Ms Harris also forwarded these 4 students' mid-year results and we are pleased to report that all these students are doing well.
- WITS - IAS contacted Busiswe Sithole, the manager of the Financial Aid and Scholarships office at WITS and visited the university in September 2011. A moratorium was forwarded by IAS to the deputy registrar, who was also in attendance at the meeting. WITS has been contacted several times by IAS to check on the status thereof. The university was not ready to accept funds for Programme 2 in early 2012 for which they were extremely apologetic. We continue to await discussions and finalizations around the same with WITS. There is a chance that, given our small capital contribution and the effort required administrating the funds on the universities' side, that we may not be able to finalize this arrangement with WITS.
- University of Pretoria – IAS has approached Professor Anton Stroh at UP – the Dean of Natural and Agricultural Science. A draft MoU was prepared and was circulated at the bursaries office at UP. We are happy to report that this agreement is now in place with UP.
- IAS continues to explore the financial aid offices at other universities. The fact that we have a limited budget for this initiative does imply that we ought to be cautious about spreading the programme too thinly. Even with the established outlets we currently have secured, we will have no

problem placing the funds that we have earmarked for Programme 2 in early 2013.

Programme 3 - Status Summary

Programme 3 is our flagship initiative of IAS – where the top young South African statistical minds are retained in academia in South Africa. These scholarship holders also participate actively in our outreach programme.

Adverts were placed for our postgraduate scholarships programme on our website, on the SASA website, in the SASA newsletter and with university offices nationally in mid-2012. Since placing these adverts for programme 3, we received impressive applicants for our national postgraduate scholarships programme. The closing date for applications for the 2013 academic year was 24^h October 2012. We are in the process of filtering the applications, and will interview promising candidates during November 2012. We have received 35 applications for postgraduate study in 2013.

This year, apart from continuing to assist 4 students from our previous year (being Cecile Bezuidenhout, Lara Dalmeyer, Thandulwasi Magadla and Darryn Williams), IAS has also awarded scholarships to the following students: Geraldine Bailey (UCT), Kathryn Dreyer (UCT), Bantu Hlam (UCT), Brendon Lapham (UCT), Irvin Mabokgole (UFS), Rilinde Ramudzuli (UFS) and Renier van Rooyen (University of Stellenbosch).

Programme 4 - Status Summary

Lastly, IAS continues to support bespoke initiatives in statistical sciences in and for South Africa. We have expanded our network of academics and practitioners as part of our non-executive committee. This non-executive body forms a useful network of ears and eyes for IAS – alerting us to the needs, the merits and the successes on the ground of efforts across a wide spectrum of locations and role-players to promote innovations that will support Statistics as a field of development. We continue to search for idiosyncratic needs in the statistical fraternity at South African universities, through the SASA newsletter, the SASA website and the IAS website. IAS has been made aware of several requests in South Africa and has commenced with bespoke support for suitably motivated applications. We continue to look for other needs and undoubtedly these will be channeled our way.

Thus far, IAS has given financial assistance to the following organizations:

1. We were alerted early on by a number of non-executive members to the sterling work of Prof. Delia North – head of the School of Statistics at UKZN. Prof. North runs a number of capacity building initiatives through UKZN, and she spends much time and effort (and her own funds) on educating both secondary school teachers and scholars and promoting Statistical Science in South Africa. At present her workshops are run in KZN, but Prof. North is keen to expand into the other provinces.

An initial donation was made by IAS to Prof. North's initiatives in our first operational year. These funds were used to purchase teaching aids, for the printing of notes, travel and for the payment of tutors. This year IAS donated 202 Casio scientific calculators to Prof North's capacity building

project. These calculators are to be used during her workshops and then returned to her. At IAS's request, Casio donated an additional 21 calculators to Prof North. These were given to her lecturers and tutors as a gift.

2. IAS has made a commitment to supporting the hosting of an educational Rasch modelling conference, in South Africa, in 2013. This decision was made towards the end of our first year of operations. Rasch modelling has obvious relevance to assessing and assisting with educational problems in South Africa, and we believe we should be supportive of the same.
3. IAS has also recently taken the decision to support an 'Operational Research for Development' initiative in the Department of Statistical Sciences at UCT. To this end, IAS recently donated a Dell Vostro Computer and presented this to the UCT Stats Department for use by their doctoral programme.

We are hence happy to report satisfactory progress in terms of Programme 4.

Other

- IAS is currently running on budget on an operational level with no unexpected overheads being encountered.
- IAS is currently running on a post-operational cost basis of a BEE target of 86%.
- The administration of IAS is being run satisfactorily and there is close liaison with our auditors, Verryn & Co.
- We maintain the balance of IAS escrow capital in a low-risk income fund with 12-hour notice for liquidity. IAS has tax exemption, and being income tax agnostic implies our programmes benefit from the yield pickup appreciably here.
- We are still actively looking for funding through various financial institutions in South Africa, as well as through the SETAs. We had hoped that INSETA would see the link between statistics skills being preserved in SA and support for the actuarial and insurance fields. As yet, we have failed to engage INSETA at any meaningful level despite our many attempts.

We are comfortable in our progress thus far in terms of meeting our commitments to our donors. We are more than happy to answer any questions or queries.

Kind regards



D Polakow
on behalf of the Institute of the Applied Statistics Trust

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The March, June and September Newsletters were all on time. Thank you to all members who contributed.

Mardi Jankowitz (Newsletter Editor)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Two issues appeared in 2012 (as per usual), with seven papers in the first issue and nine in the second issue.

During 2012 the journal received IBS accreditation and in 2013 we will begin the process to also obtain ISI accreditation. From 2013 the process of submitting papers will change - all potential articles must be submitted electronically to the editor via the SASA website. In the case where the article has been accepted the author will then be asked to convert the article into TeX (or Scientific Word) format using the templates available online.

Finally, it was decided to change the journal's dimensions to a larger size of 19cm x 26cm.

James Allison (Managing Editor)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL EDITOR

Since November 2011:

49 papers were received,
17 papers were published

The actual acceptance rate for this period was approximately 30%.

The first issues of 2011 contained 7 papers, whereas the second issue contained 9 papers which is the record value for our journal. The issues were published timely in March and September.

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

Max Finkelstein (Scientific Editor)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTERN CAPE CHAPTER

On 5 October 2012 Prof Paul Fatti visited the Department of Statistics Stellenbosch to give a talk titled "*More Problems from Statistical Consulting*". The talk was combined with the Stellenbosch Statistics Department weekly seminars. It was the intention to hold the AGM of the Western Cape Chapter prior to the talk but, since no-one put any discussion points on the agenda, the meeting was not held.

Tom Berning (Chairperson)

November 2012

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 and other universities in South Africa. 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 1 and 2 March). We invite speakers from universities in South Africa and Europe, as well as representatives from industry. This workshop is a real highlight of our calendar.

Morné Sjölander (Chairperson)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL CHAPTER

On Monday, 10 Sept, Prof. Iddo Gal, President-elect of the International Association for Statistics Education (IASE) and Chair of the Numeracy Expert Group for OECD's new study of adult skills, gave a seminar at UKZN titled "*The development of statistical literacy: Issues and challenges on the road to mathematical and scientific literacy*".

The KZN Lecture Series for teachers was attended by a total of 437 teachers this year, a series of 5-lessons were given on each of Howard College and PmB campuses of UKZN. Classes were given in three streams (GET, FET and Financial Mathematics and Probability) on each campus, lectured by

UKZN Statistics staff and attendees were identified by DOE and registration was handled by Stats SA. This was followed by an Ambassador program one-day event, hosted by Stats SA at their provincial headquarters in Durban.

On 15 May 2012 M.C. Mlangeni presented a Talk entitled “*Approaches to analyzing Cluster Randomized Trials (CRT)*”.

Temesgen Zewotir (Chairperson)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTERN CAPE CHAPTER

The Eastern Cape Chapter met on two occasions during 2012.

The meetings were held on 27th and 28th September at Rhodes University and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, respectively. Professor Paul Mostert, from the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Stellenbosch, presented three lectures entitled “*Bayesian reference analysis for Weibull model using the slice sampler*” and “*Bayesian analysis of a censored Rayleigh model when using the generalised hypergeometric as prior*” and “*Bayesian approaches of some Markov models embedded in unbalanced panel data*”.

The meetings were well attended by colleagues from NMMU and RU. Unfortunately colleagues from UFH and Walter Sisulu University were unable to attend.

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

Sarah Radloff (Chairperson)

November 2012

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIMPOPO CHAPTER

Nothing to report.

Alphonse Amey (Chairperson)

November 2012

INITIATIVES FOR 2012/2013: INCOMING PRESIDENT

I thank SASA for providing me the opportunity to put forward initiatives and plans as the incoming president for 2013. It is quite a daunting task to follow in the shoes of some really influential and highly respected past presidents. Their successes have been numerous and are evident in many activities and initiatives that SASA have put in place over the last number of years. I hope

my initiatives that I put forward below for 2013 will contribute to continuing the good work and initiatives of past presidents.

The SASA EC has a long list of tasks that it tackles and accomplishes throughout the year. However, I believe that a more strategic planning, and drive, is required towards objectives that are specifically targeted towards the growth of the association and the statistics discipline. Specifically, we need to investigate ways of utilizing the association's income more strategically, for example, channelling more money towards the excellent work that the Education Committee is doing at school level and at Universities to expose current and prospective students to the statistics discipline. Furthermore, we need to consider opportunities to award more post-graduate bursaries to ensure continued supply of high quality people for the Universities and the broader industry.

Great initiatives have been put in place to improve the impact of the SA Statistical Journal. However, I believe that more effort and resources are required for improving the quality of, and the number of submissions to, the SASA conference proceedings. Specifically, formal structures, processes and templates must be put in place for the proceedings to ensure that it becomes a highly rated statistics publication.

The potential increase in student numbers must be pre-empted with creating a demand from industry for statisticians and statistical methods. Note with industry I include all types of industry, finance and government. Statistics need to be transformed from, on the one extreme being considered to be concerned with only numbers, to the other extreme being considered as only theoretical, to real applications and value-add to industry. More attention must be given to publish and to market the successes of statisticians in contributing to business improvements and value-add in various industries. Specifically, there is a need for greater interaction and collaboration between academics at University and practitioners within industry to identify applications and possible value-add for statistical methods. Marketing statistics as a career can only become successful if the contributions and value-add to business and industry are available and communicated.

From an industry perspective, I believe there is scope to expand the training of students specifically towards industrial needs. One topic that comes to mind is Statistical Engineering, which is about how to collectively utilize many different methods or disciplines to solve an industrial problem. Students are generally trained in using various techniques but not necessarily how to solve a problem given the various techniques. I believe the discipline of Statistical Engineering can be explored within South Africa, and this may be an opportunity for academic institutions that are willing to take up this challenge.

I hope I will get an opportunity to visit some of the universities in South Africa in the next year to discuss and to share ideas on the above. Although, many of the issues have been raised in the past I believe that there is still scope for improvement and to support the statistics community towards greater growth and value-add within the wider South Africa.

Roelof Coetzer (Incoming President 2012/2013)

November 2011

INTERIM 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES ON 2013 BUDGET

Notes on the 2013 Budget

- The budget for 2013 includes expenses for only one official visitor, covered by the Platinum sponsorship. An additional Platinum sponsorship will ensure a second visitor.
- Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2011 with SAS and StatsSA respectively for the next few years have ensured various financial commitments (see various headings in the budget 2013). Competition prizes and bursaries form also part of the budget 2013. StatsSA has increased their annual contribution to the running of SASA to R57 750 in 2013. SAS has committed itself to be the platinum sponsor for the next few years (CPI: 5% increase on amounts of the SAS MoU).
- The SAS Platinum sponsorship of R66 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, R32 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 R7,80 = US\$1 and domestic library pays R95. This remains unchanged from 2012. The estimated income from online hosting of Journal with SABINET is R10 000. The Journal will be printed in 2013 in a new larger format – hence the higher costs and also the increased number of papers in an issue (of the last year).
- The SASA website will be re-developed and will get a face-lift in 2012/2013 at an estimated cost of R25 000, which will be partly funded from the SAS sponsorship and the spiral account.
- The EC has also decided to increase the SASA Scholarship and Bursary allocation from R28 000 in 2012 to R39 000 in 2013.
- Recommendation about membership fees: Ordinary membership fee increases to R280 including VAT; Senior membership remains at R130 and affiliated membership increases to R490 per annum. Student membership remains at R55.

Comments on the 2012 Interim financial statements

All amounts in the interim financial report represent transactions from 1 January 2012 to 15 October 2012 of all SASA bank accounts.

- Spiral account balance as on 15 October 2012: R231 876
- Cheque account balance as on 15 October 2012: R308 224
- Participation bond balance as on 15 October 2012: R10 000

INCOME:

- Part of the profit from the 2011 conference (R28 000) was used to sponsor a second official visitor in 2012.
- The online Journal hosting at SABINET generated an income of R9 600 for 2011/2012. It is estimated at R10 000 for 2013.
- A total of 47 new members join in 2012 until 24 October. SASA has lost 35 memberships (including the members of 2011 who did not respond to numerous reminders and were automatically removed from list), some resigned and others changed addresses, hence no payment received for 2012. A total of 18 membership fees are outstanding for 2012 as on 24 October 2012 and there is a large probability that they will not renew their memberships in 2013 and will therefore be removed from the membership list at the end of 2013. All membership contributions (deposits) have been traced on the bank statements. Total paid-up memberships: 438 (including honorary members).
- 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. Four Departments have given each a R5 000 sponsorship towards this (Institutional sponsorships), namely: University of Pretoria, University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch University and University of Limpopo.

EXPENSES:

- Estimated outstanding newsletter expenses (one issue – December 2012): R9 500.
- SAS sponsored money is still included in the current account as on 15 October 2012. From this amount, the Thought Leaders amount (R10 500), Outreach to Schools (about R17 500), Young Statisticians award (R5 250), SAS postgraduate bursary (R21 000) and Website development (R12 000) need to be awarded in the 2012 financial year.
- Some chapter claims still outstanding.
- AGM booklets and expenses outstanding.
- Bank fees also include cost on US dollar deposits for journal subscriptions.

2012 interim (up to 15 October 2012) financial statements:

1. The "unbordered" cells are the budgeted values - column "2012"

2. The "bordered" cells are the actual income/expenditure: 1 January to 15 October 2012 - column "actual"

INCOME					actual	2012	EXPENDITURE					actual	2012
					#								
Membership						89386	EC					27900	40000
Ordinary (less VAT)	362	265	84149	87114			Newsletter					31763	38500
Affiliated (less VAT)	5	460	2018	2018			Journal						52000
Senior (less VAT)	24	130	2737	3649			Typeset & print					64415	
Student (less VAT)	10	55	482	724			Educom						63000
Newsletter						26000	SASA Bursary and Scholarship Awards					28000	25500
Ads (sponsors)	4	1500	6000	6000			travel/general					14000	5866
Ads (Institutional)	4	5000	20000	21000			SAS graduate bursary					21000	
Journal						39514	Careers						1000
Overseas US\$	69	84	38254	52096			SAS MoU						
Local (less VAT) ZAR	15	95.76	1260	9604			Young Statisticians project						5250
SAS MoU						57750	Thought leaders					10500	10500
Young Statisticians project			5250	5250			Outreach to Schools					21000	21000
Thought leaders			10500	10500			Expert list: website development					21000	21000
Outreach to Schools			21000	21000			Visitors (1)						27000
Expert list: website development			21000	21000			From platinum sponsors					27000	27000
Visitors (1)						27000	Sponsored Competitions						54050
From platinum sponsors			27000	27000			SAS Honours					19800	19800
Sponsored Competitions						54050	Stats SA post graduate					34250	34250
SAS Honours			19800	19800			Bursary						
Stats SA post graduate			34250	34250			SAS Postgraduate					21000	21000
Bursary						21000	Website buttons					2	1000
SAS Postgraduate			21000	21000			Interest						3292
Website buttons	2		1000	2000			Sponsors						83000
Interest				3292			Stats SA					(55000)	54000
Sponsors						83000	Platinum (SAS)					(63000)	29000
Stats SA			(55000)	54000									29000
Platinum (SAS)			(63000)	29000									
						405700							405700

Proposed Budget: 2013						
INCOME			2013	EXPENDITURE		2013
	#					
Membership			103123	EC		38000
Ordinary (less VAT)	398	280 97754		Newsletter		40000
Affiliated (less VAT)	5	490 2149		Journal		65000
Senior (less VAT)	24	130 2737		Typeset & print		
Student (less VAT)	10	55 482		Educom		74000
Newsletter			26000	Scholarship Awards	39000	
Ads (sponsors)	4	1500 6000		travel/general	14000	
Ads (Institutional)	4	5000 20000		SAS graduate bursary	21000	
Journal			45717	Careers		1100
Overseas US\$	62	84 34373		SAS MoU		
Local (less VAT) ZAR	16	95.76 1344		Young Statisticians project		5500
SABINET	1	10000		Thought leaders		11000
SAS MoU items			41000	Outreach to Schools		21000
Young Statisticians project		5500		Expert list: Maintenance & Website		3500
Thought leaders		11000		Visitors (1)		27000
Outreach to Schools		21000		From platinum sponsors		27000
Expert list: Maintenance & Website		3500		Sponsored Competitions		57800
Visitors (1)			27000	SAS Honours		20800
From platinum sponsors		27000		StatsSA post graduate		37000
Sponsored Competitions			57800	Official Stats		500
SAS Honours		20800		Chapters		12000
StatsSA post graduate		37000		Image Building		4000
Bursary			21000	Admin		25490
SAS Postgraduate			21000	Financial assistant	1500	
Website buttons	2	1000	2000	Bank fees	5190	
Interest			5500	AGM	1000	
Sponsors			88750	Accounting fees	10000	
StatsSA	(57750)	56750		Website	6000	
Platinum (SAS)	(66000)	32000		Stationary/postage	1800	
			417890			417890

Paul Mostert (Treasurer)

November 2012

Sincere thanks to the following contributors

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SASA's AGM booklet compiled by

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November 2012