

South African Statistical Association

Annual General Meeting



2014

SASA Annual General Meeting 2014

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA OF SASA TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2014 AT 12:00 AT RHODES UNIVERSITY

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Minutes of 2013 AGM**
 - 2.1 Approval of the minutes
 - 2.2 Matters arising
- 3. Finalising the agenda**
- 4. Annual report of the Executive Committee 2013/2014**
- 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 Board, including financial report
 - 6.5 MDAG
 - 6.6 Newsletter Editor
 - 6.7 Sponsorships
 - 6.8 Managing Editor Journal
 - 6.9 Scientific Editor Journal
 - 6.10 Chapters
 - 6.10.1 Western Cape Chapter
 - 6.10.2 Free State Chapter
 - 6.10.3 KwaZulu-Natal Chapter
 - 6.10.4 Eastern Cape Chapter
 - 6.10.5 Limpopo Chapter
 - 6.10.6 Gauteng Chapter
 - 6.10.7 Vaal-North West Chapter
- 7. Initiatives of the incoming President for 2014/2015**
- 8. Financial matters**
 - 8.1 2014 Interim financial statements and report
 - 8.2 Draft 2015 Budget
 - 8.3 Membership fees 2015
 - 8.4 Journal subscription fees 2015
- 9. Executive Committee for 2014/2015**
 - 9.1 Vice-President
 - 9.2 Treasurer
 - 9.3 Journal Managing Editor
 - 9.4 Sponsorship
- 10. SASA Conference 2015**
 - 10.1 Hosts
 - 10.2 Invited Guests
- 11. Additional matters**
 - 11.1 MDAG Draft Constitution
 - 11.2 2015 SASA Constitution Revision
 - 11.3 Proposal by ICCSSA regarding joint conferences
- 12. Closing**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA OF SASA TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 17:30 AT THE RANCH

1. Welcome

The president, Roelof Coetzer, welcomed all members to the 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM booklets were made available electronically so that everyone had already had a chance to read through them.

2. Minutes of 2012 AGM

2.3 Approval of the minutes

Approved

2.4 Matters arising

None

3. Finalising the agenda

No additional points

4. Annual report of the Executive Committee 2012/2013

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

5. Annual report of Fellowship Committee

Accepted as read

6. Other reports

6.1 Education Committee

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

6.2 Careers Committee

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

6.3 Official Statistics Committee

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

6.4 ICCSSA Board, including financial report

VM discussed the financial report. Report accepted.

6.5 Newsletter Editor

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

6.6 Sponsorships

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet. YC gave a short overview of the

MOUs

and the institutional sponsorship.

6.7 Managing Editor Journal

JA thanked Prof Finkelstein once again for his dedication and wished Prof Radloff the best.

6.8 Scientific Editor Journal

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

6.9 Chapters

6.9.1 Western Cape Chapter

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

6.9.2 Free State Chapter

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

6.9.3 KwaZulu-Natal Chapter

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

6.9.4 Eastern Cape Chapter

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

6.9.5 Limpopo Chapter

Accepted as read in the AGM 2013 booklet.

PM gave a short overview. Congrats to Limpopo for getting off the ground gain. Also, looking at starting a Gauteng and Vaal-NorthWest chapter. Positive feedback received so far.

7. Initiatives of the incoming President for 2013/2014

- *Gauteng and Vaal-NorthWest chapters needs assessment*
- *Extend our membership and look at why members have resigned.*

8. Financial matters

Accepted as read.

8.5 2013 Interim financial statements and report

8.6 Draft 2014 Budget

8.7 Membership fees 2014

8.8 Journal subscription fees 2014

9. Executive Committee for 2013/2014

9.1 Vice-President *James Allison*

9.2 Secretary *Inger Fabris-Rotelli*

9.3 Journal Managing Editor *Leonard Santana*

Gary will take over the Careers portfolio.

10. SASA Conference 2014

10.1 Hosts *Rhodes*

10.2 Invited Guests *Nominations for invited guests will be in the December newsletter.*

11. Additional matters

11.1 Formation of a Statistical Classification and Data Analysis group
Approved by the EC. First meeting on the first day of the conference. SASA will pay the yearly membership fees.

11.2 Joint SASA-ICCSSA annual conference

VM addressed the audience. He proposed on behalf of ICCSSA the idea to unite the statistical conference in the country into one annual convention to avoid having to go to numerous conferences, namely ICCSSA, SASA, Isibalo and the Forecasting conventions. Working group: VM, RC, PM, JA. ICCSSA could have one dedicated stream at the conference – supported by SR and PF. There was concern about the size of the conference and the additional

cost. The working group will report back with options at the next AGM. VM will also approve the extension of the bylaws of ICCSSA until the end of 2014.

11.3 Attendance of the AGM Legesse Debushe pointed out that attendance is low. His suggestion was to move the AGM to during the day before or after lunch.

12. Closing

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

ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013/2014

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of one of South Africa's great statisticians, Professor Fanie Steyn in the beginning of 2014. His passion for the subject has been remarkably inspirational to all of us.

It does feel like yesterday when we attended the last AGM at the very successful SASA conference in Polokwane. We, as SASA Executive (EC) are confident that this year's hosts at Rhodes University will meet all your expectations of organising yet another great conference. The organisers need to be thanked for a great job done, especially Lizanne Raubenheimer, who additionally, is doing at the same time a splendid job as treasurer of SASA.

The EC had their first meeting of 2014 in January and everybody on the committee was very excited about the planned activities for the year. One of the strategic objectives that the EC identified in 2013 during a SWOT-analysis, was to re-energise the chapters of SASA. The chapter-report can be seen elsewhere in this booklet, but a true highlight this year was the formation of two new chapters. The first new chapter of SASA serves the North-West and Vaal region that includes members in and around Potchefstroom, Mahikeng and Vanderbijlpark. WD Schutte of North-West University acts as chairperson. The second new chapter has commenced with its work in the Gauteng area, and includes members of Pretoria, Centurion and the greater Johannesburg. Sonali Das of the CSIR is the chairperson of this chapter. I would like to extend my appreciation to WD and Sonali for accepting the responsibility to chair these new chapters.

The EC through the Education Committee has introduced a new third year competition in the form of a bursary for prospective students to study an honours degree in Statistics or Mathematical Statistics. ICCSSA is sponsoring this award and we want to thank the board of ICCSSA for this generous sponsorship. This new third year bursary means SASA are able to run competitions for students on all undergraduate and post-graduate levels. I want to thank Vince Micali, who recently retired, for all the hard work over the years and who was instrumental in making sure that ICCSSA becomes a reality. I would also like to thank Delia North and the whole Education Committee for their hard work in running and administering these various awards and competitions. On this note, I would extend my appreciation to StatsSA and SAS for their commitment and support to SASA by providing much needed sponsorships for the general running of SASA, the student competitions and annual conference. Without your sponsorships, SASA would not be as effective and would not be able to commit to our various projects. A special thanks to Yoko Chhana for making sure that everything regarding sponsorships is in place through our various MoU's.

It also came to our attention earlier this year that the latest provisional scarce skills list issued by the Department of Higher Education and Training (HET), Statistics and the application thereof is no longer seen as a scarce science or

skill. However, on a previous scarce skills list issued by the Department of Labour, Statisticians were included. The minister of HET issued in April this year a call for comments on the *National Scarce skills list: the top 100 occupations in demand (Notice 380 of 2014)*. There was an overwhelming concern from various stakeholders in South Africa that we as Statistical Association should act on the call, which we did. However, to date, SASA has not received any feedback regarding our submitted comments.

At our last meeting in August, the EC had a very positive discussion with representatives from the recently established Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (CoE-MaSS). The deputy director and the dean of Science from WITS University briefed the EC about the background and aims of the CoE-MaSS. It was a very fruitful discussion and it was arranged that the director of the centre will also address SASA members at this year's conference in Grahamstown. In addition, SASA has recently received very good news regarding the submitted proposal in 2013 about the *Crisis in Statistics* at academic institutions. The NRF has committed itself to significant financial support in assisting and relieving the crisis we are facing. Details will be communicated to all stakeholders as soon as more information becomes available. On behalf of the whole statistics community I would like to extend my appreciation to Roelof Coetzer, Riaan de Jongh, Tertius de Wet, Freek Lombard, Andriette Bekker, Sonali Das and Francesca Little for all the hard work that went into this proposal.

I have recently attended a one-day workshop organised by the chief director of Emerging Research Areas & Infrastructure at DST. The workshop was also attended by the presidents of the other basic science associations/societies of Mathematics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Physics and Geology. The aim of this initiative, as I understand it, is the establishment of a South African Basic Sciences Network (SABSNET). All representatives present had to make a presentation about the state of their respective disciplines. The crisis in Statistics was brought under the attention of the delegates and was received with good understanding and empathy. I am confident that after the launch of this initiative, Statistics at academic institutions will receive high priority in addressing our challenges in the long term.

We are very proud of the SASA publications that are also of a high standard. Mardi Jankowitz has been doing a great job the last few years in making sure our communication with the members are up to date. Gary Sharp has always very valuable experience and advice with respect to a lot of our burning issues. His experience ensures that we have an excellent *institutional memory* in the executive. The SA Statistical Journal (SASJ) has also moved on with the times. Papers are now submitted electronically for the refereeing process using a standardised template. The same format is also used for the conference proceedings. Leonard Santana and James Allison did an excellent job getting this off the ground and are really making life easier for the editorial board. I would like to thank Sarah Radloff as new editor of the journal, for all the innovative contributions and hard work already done in this very important task. SASA will this year have the second opportunity to award a Thought Leader through the sponsorship of SAS. I want to congratulate the deserving winner of 2014. On that note, I want to congratulate all our competition winners who were announced on various platforms during the year.

I also thank all the members of the SASA EC for their commitment and hard work during the year, which made my term a breeze. A special thanks must go to Inger Fabris-Rotelli who is definitely one of the most efficient and productive members on the EC. No task is too small to handle and is done always with an infectious smile. The EC comprises of very committed and dedicated members who carry out their tasks as volunteers and their efforts go a long way to serve the statistical community in South Africa. I wish James Allison all the best as the incoming President for 2015.

Paul Mostert (President 2013/2014)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The SASA Fellowship committee comprises the last six available Past Presidents, i.e. Khangelani Zuma, Herrie van Rooy, Yoko Chhana, Pravesh Debba, Gary Sharp and Roelof Coetzer. The committee received four nominations for Honorary Membership. I am pleased to announce that the following two members were unanimously elected as Honorary Members of SASA:

1. Prof Francois Steffens (UP)
2. Prof Sarah Radloff (Rhodes University)

On behalf of SASA, I would like to congratulate them on this wonderful achievement. Their election as Honorary Members is well deserved.

Roelof Coetzer

October 2014

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, as a result of a very dedicated team giving their time freely, for the discipline that they love.

The year started off very well, with no changes in the committee, so that members of the committee went about the duties related to their portfolios, like well-oiled machines.

Members of the committee, with their primary focus for 2014 were as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Portfolio</i>
Gerber, Hannah	Honours Projects Competition, Marketing

Reyneke, Fransonet	Secretary, Post Graduate Paper Competition
North, Delia	Chairperson, Outreach to schools, Education workshop
Brettany, Warren	Second Year Competition, SASA newsletter
Fletcher, Lizelle	Third Year Competition, Website planning
Chhana, Yoko	Website co-ordination and MOU activity planning
Dunne, Tim	Paper competition for young statisticians to attend WSC

Fransonet took over from Verena Nolan as secretary at the start of the year, and took to the job as a duck to water! She has done a wonderful job as secretary, from updating and distributing posters for student notice boards, to handling all matters related to communication with statistics departments on educational matters. Fransonet not only performed the secretarial duties, but was also solely responsible for all matters related to the post graduate paper competition for MSc and PhD students, sponsored by Stats SA. This competition attracted 11 entries from 5 universities (UCT, UFS, UKZN, UP, Wits). The three prize winners were announced in October and the winner will present his entry at the 2014 SASA conference. Full details will be published in the December newsletter. Fransonet, we appreciate all the hard work that you have done on behalf of the committee!

The WSC Young Statistician competition was defined for the ISI Conference in Hong Kong in August 2013. The competition aimed to take 10 young statisticians from Africa to the prestigious event, and resulted in a total of 16 going to Hong Kong, with 5 coming from South African universities! A follow-up competition was advertised this year, aiming to take young statisticians to ISI2015 in Brazil. Tim Dunne was co-opted onto the committee to see to all aspects of the competition. Tim bring experience and expertise to the most difficult competition to run, as there are so many different aspects to this competition, so thank you Tim!

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. Winners were announced in January 2014 on the SASA website and in the newsletter. Warren was further responsible for the steady flow of information in the Education section of the SASA newsletter and did a wonderful job, thank you Warren!

Though the SASA student honours project competition was sponsored by SAS for the eight consecutive year, the MOU between Stats SA and SAS defines 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, which ran smoothly in true “Hannah-style”!. The SASA honours project competition had a total of 16 entries this year from 6 universities (Rhodes, Wits, UCT, UFS UKZN, UP). Results were released to HoDs and all concerned at the end of July. The winner of the competition will present the winning entry at the 2014 SASA conference. Only Hannah can run a competition with the highest level of efficiency imaginable...even if she is a new mommy!

A competition, mentioned in the MOU with SAS, aims to target third year Statistics major students, studying toward a honours degree in Statistics the following year. This competition ran for the second time this year, with Lizelle Fletcher taking full responsibility for all aspects of the competition. Entries have been sent out for third year students of 2014 and the winners will be announced in January, 2015. The first prize (scholarship) will be sponsored by SAS, whilst TWO second prizes (bursaries) will be awarded, one sponsored by SASA, the other sponsored by ICCSSA. Lizelle has run this competition effortlessly and assists with planning information for the website, and generally helps out wherever needed, an invaluable member of our team!

Yoko joined our committee in 2013 and has once again been a wonderful asset with her finger on the pulse of the MOU’s with SAS and Stats SA, as well as doing a great job of getting news onto the website and being a very good link with ICCSSA and the SASA EC. We are blessed to have her on our committee.

The committee has organized a workshop during the 2014 SASA Conference, titled “On-line Teaching of Statistics” and aims to explore the pro’s and cons of teaching statistics to large classes using a modernized approach. This workshop will be in the parallel session part of the conference and will be a joint presentation by academics from UCT, NWU and UNISA, as well as an education technology company (GetSmart).

Outreach activities remain a strong focus of this committee, with the series of maths4stats workshops at UKZN , presented by the entire Statistics department, growing in leaps and bounds each year, with just over 2000 teachers having attended the 5-weekend course, which is run in three parallel venues at each lesson. Negotiations are currently under way to extend this program to have a further “train-the-trainer” element where DBE subject advisors will receive training in basic statistics concepts and associated pedagogy.

So, all in all, the committee can report that 2014 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 2015 will be even more productive for our committee than 2014 was.

Delia North (Chairperson)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAREERS COMMITTEE

The primary focus of the committee this year was the revision of the Careers in Statistics brochure. The SASA EC took the decision to update and modernize the brochure which was originally prepared by Prof Jan du Plessis. Although there has been some revisions over the last ten years, these have been more typographical than major changes. A request for budgetary support is made in 2015 to improve the artwork and provide for printing of the brochure. The intention is to provide hard and soft copies to all institutions who need marketing support for the discipline. Several recent and not so recent statistics graduates have been approached to provide input into career options that are available. As these are collated, they will be the primary focus of the revision. The main focus for 2015 will be the completion of the revision, and circulation of the brochure. In addition, articles from statisticians employed in industry and research institutions will continue to be published in the quarterly newsletters. This is an exciting period to be a statistician, data analytics has become a *buzzword*, and the implications are opportunities for those trained in statistical expertise. The committee aims to foster these opportunities and provide informational support to the statistics community.

Gary Sharp (Chairperson)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS COMMITTEE

No report received.

Arul Naidoo (Chairperson)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ICCSSA BOARD

The new board members for ICCSSA who will serve the board for the next three years were elected at the 3rd ICCSSA convention held in July 2014. Dr Pravesh Debba was elected the new Chairman taking over from Dr Vince Micali who has been the Chairman of ICCSSA since its inception and Ms. Yoko Chhana as the new Chief Executive Officer, taking over from Dr Pravesh Debba. The new board consists of the following members: Dr Pravesh Debba (chairman), Ms Yoko Chhana (CEO), Dr Roelof Coetzer, Ms Dineo Ratlangana (secretary), Ms Valentina Litvine (financial director), Prof

Igor Litvine, Prof Jacky Galpin, Mr Philip Steyn and two newly appointed members namely Dr Miranda Mafafo and Ms Vanessa Ndlovu. Dr Rolf Bekker remains on the board as ex officio member representing SACNASP. ICCSSA thanks Dr Vince Micali for his valuable contribution over the years.

At the 3rd ICCSSA convention Mr. Peter Bosch, South African Qualification Association (SAQA) stated that they are now working together with the departments of Labour and Education to make sure that anyone who is a practising statistician in the country must be registered with ICCSSA as a Chartered or Certificated statistician, and also that the universities offering courses in statistics are accredited by ICCSSA.

The 3rd ICCSSA convention held in Durban was jointly hosted by ICCSSA and the Centre of Expertise in Forecasting (CoEF). The intention is to have more joint conferences in order to reduce the number of annual conferences by various statistical organisations, associations and societies in SA.

ICCSSA is also working closely with SACNASP to register as an affiliated society of SACNASP and to submit an application to register Statistics as its own field of practice.

Our aim is to also work closely with SASA in order to deliver on the common goals of both bodies.

ICCSSA has also influenced SACNASP to now consider applications for membership from individuals with degrees other than a science degree. This is particularly useful to Statisticians since not all statistics degrees are under the science faculty and hence previously not all Statisticians could register with SACNASP.

Pravesh Debba (Chairperson: ICCSSA Board)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MDAG COMMITTEE

The Multivariate and Data Analysis Group (MDAG) was established at a meeting during the 2013 SASA conference. The committee chosen, Sugnet Lubbe (chair), Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel (secretary), Niël le Roux (additional member) and André Mostert (additional member) was tasked to write a constitution for MDAG. The draft is to be discussed at the 2014 SASA AGM.

In the first part of 2014 a call was sent to all SASA members interested in multivariate data analysis to join MDAG. As at 15 October 2014 MDAG has 39 members. Since the members are spread throughout South Africa, general meetings through the course of the year is challenging. The executive committee aims to concentrate on electronic communication and 'meetings' to promote communication between members and support any multivariate data analysis initiatives concerning members.

Apart from a dedicated session with 6 invited speakers at the 2014 SASA conference, the first MDAG meeting was hosted at Stellenbosch University on 26 September 2014 with prof Michael Greenacre from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain as speaker. The meeting was attended by

approximately 25 participants: MDAG members, SASA members who are not MDAG members and non-SASA members. Afterwards a video recording of the presentation was made available on the MDAG Facebook page as well as on the MDAG page on the SASA website.

For 2015 the MDAG committee would like to continue fostering relationships between members and focus on obtaining affiliation with the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS). We hope to have the affiliation process complete by the next IFCS conference, 6 – 8 July 2015 at the University of Bologna.

Sugnet Lubbe (Secretary)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Electronic newsletters were put on the website during March, June and September 2014. They were all on time. Thank you to all members who contributed.

Mardi Jankowitz (Newsletter Editor)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR SPONSORSHIPS

SASA receives sponsorships in two broad categories: general sponsorship and institutional sponsorship. StatsSA and SAS have once again sponsored SASA activities such as: bursaries, student paper competitions, scholarships, conference sponsorship and capacity building initiatives under the general sponsorship category. ICCSSA has also joined in the initiatives by sponsoring a bursary for postgraduate studies. Institutional sponsorships were received from the Centre for Business Mathematics & Informatics at North-West University (March newsletter) and Unisa (September newsletter). SASA is appreciative of the continued support received from our sponsors and for the new partnerships that have been forged this year.

Yoko Chhana (Sponsorships)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Two issues appeared in 2014 (as per usual), with eight papers in both the first and second issue. One of the papers in the second issue was a discussion paper by N. Balakrishnan (one of the past SASA conference's invited overseas speakers) and Debanjan Mitra which was accompanied by seven short comment papers written by various local and international researchers.

We hope to continue the initiative of inviting the international guests of the SASA conference to write discussion papers in order to increase the visibility and impact factor of the journal

There continues to be a delay with the delivery of the second issue of the journal due to the post-office strike; hopefully this will be resolved soon.

Leonard Santana (Managing Editor)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL EDITOR

My duties as the editor of SASJ began on 1 November 2013. From the previous editor I received 2 papers to manage, which were submitted during September and October 2013. Including these 2 papers, the Journal to date has received 56 submissions since November 2013.

The current state of these submissions is:

Accepted for publication	8
Rejected	21
Invited to resubmit	9
Under review	14
Not processed (since Sept)	4
Total	56

Eight papers were published in the first issue of 2014. The second issue included an invited discussion paper with 7 comments and a rejoinder, and 7 papers. I would like to thank Prof. Finkelstein for his invaluable contribution in organising the invited paper and discussions.

The editorial board consists of the following Associate Editors: Akim Adekpedjou, Tertius de Wet, Max Finkelstein, Carl Lombard, Samuel Manda, Noel Veraverbeke and Khangelani Zuma, and the Managing Editor, Leonard Santana. I would like to thank most sincerely the Associate Editors and Managing Editor for their support during my first year as editor.

Sarah Radloff (Scientific Editor)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTERN CAPE CHAPTER

The Western Cape Chapter of SASA meeting for 2014 will be held in Stellenbosch at the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science on 3 November 2014. The planned programme is follows: AGM (if any points of discussion are put on the agenda), followed by a talk, and then a light lunch.

The speaker is an invited speaker of the 2014 Annual SASA Conference, namely Ivette Gomes. The title of the talk is: Threshold Selection for Reduced-Bias Location-Invariant EVI-estimators and a Financial Application.

Tom Berning (Chairperson)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GAUTENG CHAPTER

The first chapter meeting was held on July 24 (Thursday), 2014 at the CSIR main campus in Pretoria. The meeting was attended by 17 SASA members. This was the only meeting held in 2014.

Currently we will organise bi-annual meetings, to be held in the week before semester starts (July and February) to accommodate SASA members who have academic affiliations. Further, the meetings will alternate between the Pretoria region (north) and the Johannesburg region (south).

In the July 2014 meeting, Chair (Dr Das) welcomed the attendees and all attendees introduced themselves. Then the Chair gave feedback on some of the suggestions members had sent for what their expectations are from this chapter. The Chair also gave the group some feedback from her interaction with the CoE for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences that is hosted at Wits. Members discussed that it will be useful to target younger statisticians and actuaries in Gauteng to attend the meetings so that they can interact more informally with professional statisticians, as well as if required receive some sort of mentorship. Some members suggested that one can make the meetings more attractive by including more practical aspects of statistics such as visiting some experimental farms at the ARC. The aspect of the chapter having more presence on social media was put forth, and it was agreed that SASA EC will make a call on it. It was also agreed that efforts will be made to make SASA membership more attractive and inclusive, including other society members in the Gauteng catchment. In the second part of the chapter meeting, Dr Das had invited Prof A. Kijko from UP Natural Hazard Centre to present his experiences in working in the confluence of a domain science (geophysics) and statistics, and his experiences in working with the industry as well as in the academia. The meeting ended with light refreshments.

The format that we intend to follow in the short term is to have a two part meeting session – in the first part we intend to discuss any matters arising; and in the second part to invite a speaker who can present a talk that is of relevance to some aspect of statistics. Suggestions for venues and speakers will be sent out to Gauteng chapter member routinely.

Sonali Das (Chairperson)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VAAL-NORTH-WEST CHAPTER

Since the new SASA North-West-Vaal chapter was formed, Dr. Lizanne Raubenheimer supplied us with a list of all members in this chapter. Communication was sent to representatives at the Mafikeng and Vaal campus of the North-West University, as well as to a representative at Sasol, to invite anyone to contribute towards the chapter. The Potchefstroom campus of the NWU are planning to host a seminar by Prof. David Mason and Prof. Jan Swanepoel on 7 November 2014. The topic of Prof. Mason's talk is: "The Hurst Phenomenon and the Rescaled Range Statistic". The topic of Prof. Swanepoel's talk is: "Bernstein estimation of a copula derivative with application to conditional distribution and regression functionals". Invitations are being finalised and will be sent out to all chapter members.

WD Schutte (Chairperson)

October 2014

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 SASA Free State Chapter Research Seminars per term. Speakers include not only members and students of the institutions in the Chapter but also the occasional guest from industry and other universities in South Africa. Other Chapter activities include the annual workshop: "Conference on Finance and Actuarial Science, Applications of Statistics and Probability". It's held in the first quarter every year (in this case 27 and 28 February). 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. We will be well represented this year again at the National SASA conference, with many of our members attending the conference and giving presentations. We also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Frans Koning with his appointment as Head of the Department of Mathematical Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of the Free State.

Morné Sjölander (Chairperson)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL CHAPTER

No report received.

Temesgen Zewotir (Chairperson)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTERN CAPE CHAPTER

The Eastern Cape Chapter hosted a workshop during 2014.

Professor Jan Swanepoel from NWU (Potchefstroom campus), Professor Noël Veraverbeke and Professor Paul Janssen from Hasselt University, Belgium, were invited to present a workshop to members of the Eastern Cape Chapter. They presented three talks at the workshop which was held at Rhodes University.

The titles of the talks were: Copulas, covariates and application to survival analysis (Prof Noël Veraverbeke); Copula based flexible modelling of associations between clustered event times (Prof Paul Janssen); Solving an open problem on Brownian areas by applying a new extension of Euler's theorem (Prof Jan Swanepoel).

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

Sarah Radloff (Chairperson)

October 2014

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIMPOPO CHAPTER

1. 12 May 2014: Prof. S Visagie. Gave a talk on the applications of Operations Research in everyday life and the industry. Title: "Integrating industry and academics"
2. 20 March 2014: Maths-4-Stats workshop which was supposed to be conducted at the SASA 2013 Conference was rescheduled and successfully held at the University of Limpopo.
3. 26-28 August 2014: Prof. Barry Green. Visited Universities in Limpopo and was asked to give a talk on AIMS and its relevance in the South African context. He spoke on how statistical students and researchers/lecturers can benefit from the programmes offered at AIMS such as scholar visits as well as enrolment for studies.
4. 08-11 July 2014: Held an R-based workshop titled "Introduction to Statistical Modelling – a data-based approach" at the Statistics and Operations Research Computer Lab, Mathematics Building, University of Limpopo. The University of Limpopo hosted, for the first time, a 4-day workshop to introduce participants to basic statistical modelling techniques in R. The training took place on 08-11 July 2014 at the School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences' Statistics and

Operations Research computer laboratory. This event was made possible through a partnership between the Centre for Research in Ecological and Environmental Management (CREEM), at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems Science (ACCESS) programme in Cape Town, VLIR and Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (RVSC) at the University of Limpopo, National Research Foundation (NRF), and South Africa's Department of Science and Technology. The event had previously been held in Cape Town for the past four years and its success and popularity has meant bringing it to other parts of South Africa. The course was practically oriented with real life based data used in the analysis with R software.

Timotheus Darikwa (Chairperson)

October 2014

INITIATIVES FOR 2014/2015: INCOMING PRESIDENT

I thank SASA for providing me this opportunity to put forward initiatives as the incoming president for 2015. I hope that these initiatives will contribute towards continuing the good work of past presidents.

At the beginning of 2013 the SASA EC had a two-day strategic planning session where a number of strategic objectives were set out for a 3 to 5 year period. As was the case with my predecessors, I am committed towards achieving these objectives.

My primary focus will be on the continuation of the efforts to help resolve the current crisis in Academic Statistics. The crisis is best portrayed by the fact that the discipline of Statistics in South Africa only has a hand full of B-rated scientists, most of which have already reached retirement age. Furthermore, even though some of the larger universities have developed a pool of senior lecturers, many of them are not ready, or find it difficult, to take the step from senior lecturer to that of associate professor. The primary reason for this is that they feel insecure in providing quality research supervision to PhD students and often lack collaboration with other senior professors. It is evident that all the universities in South Africa find it difficult not only to fill academic positions but also to create Statistics Departments with internationally acclaimed researchers. The problem is especially acute at the level of Professor. These arguments were put forward in a proposal to the NRF for resolving the current crisis in Academic Statistics.

The NRF informed us that a sum of money has been made available to try to alleviate this crisis. These funds should be managed and distributed according to the strategies put forward in the proposal to the NRF. Furthermore, to ultimately try resolving the crisis, a sustainable source of funding is necessary. The key focus of my term as president will entail trying to acquire these necessary funds and to form the necessary managing committee (as well as an advisory committee) to distribute these funds according to the strategic needs.

Some secondary initiatives include

- i. increasing the activity of the Chapters. Two new Chapters were formed in 2014. The North-West-Vaal Chapter will have their first meeting on 7 November 2014.
- ii. increase the impact factor of the journal with the ultimate goal of getting the journal ISI accredited. The second issue of 2014 saw a discussion paper by one of SASA's overseas visitors. These sorts of discussion papers will make the journal more visible and hopefully increase the impact factor. All overseas visitors will be asked whether they will be willing to partake in this initiative.

James Allison (Incoming President 2014/2015)

October 2014

INTERIM 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES ON 2015 BUDGET

2014 Interim financial statements and report

All amounts in the interim financial report represent transactions to 17 October 2014 of all SASA bank accounts.

- Spiral account balance as on 17 October 2014: R369 235.35
- Cheque account balance as on 17 October 2014: R425 435.62
- Fixed term deposit investment as on 17 October 2014: R 70 235.73

Income

- The online Journal hosting at SABINET generated an income of R11 507 (excl. VAT).
- A total of 11 local libraries are subscribed to SASJ, and a total of 62 overseas libraries are subscribed to SASJ.
- A total of 53 new members joined SASA in 2014, 37 members did not renew their SASA membership for 2014 or were deleted from the list since they have not paid for 2013 and 2014. A total of 57 membership fees are outstanding for 2014 as on 17 October 2014. Total paid-up members 456 (including honorary members and 24 student members).
- Two departments/institutions have given each R5 000 (excl. VAT) towards the institutional sponsorships, namely: North-West University BMI and UNISA Department of Decision Sciences. A sponsor is not yet secured for the December newsletter.

Expenses

- Estimated outstanding newsletter expenses, December issues: R2 000.
- SAS sponsored money is still included in the current account as on 17 October 2014: Thought leaders (R11 500), Young Statisticians award (R5 700), SAS graduate bursary (R22 000) need to be awarded in the 2014 financial year. The R21 000 in the 2014 interim financial

statement, was the SAS graduate bursary for the 2013 winner paid in 2014. The R11 000 in the 2014 interim financial statement was the SAS thought leader award for the 2013 recipient paid in 2014.

- The total amount in the 2013 budget for the SASA bursary and scholarship awards was R37 000. This was for the 2013 winners, announced early in 2014. This was also paid early in 2014.
- Some chapter claims are still outstanding.
- AGM booklets and expenses are outstanding.
- Bank fees also include costs on US dollar deposits for journal subscriptions.

2014 Interim financial statement (up to 17 October 2014)					
INCOME				2014	2014
	#	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Membership			100409	97224	
Ordinary (less VAT)	377	280	92596	96004	
Affiliated (less VAT)	4	490	1719	1289	
Senior (less VAT)	20	130	2281	2160	
Student (less VAT)	13	55	627	956	
Newsletter			16000	26000	
Ads (sponsors)	4	1500	6000	6000	
Ads (Institutional) (less VAT)	4	5000	20000	10000	
Journal			67978	51160	
Overseas US\$*	60	84	40320	55547	
Local (less VAT) ZAR	10	95.76	840	924	
SABINET	1		10000	11507	
SAS MoU items			42800	42800	
Young Statisticians project		5700	5700		
Thought leaders		11500	11500		
Outreach to Schools		22000	22000		
Expert list: Maintenance & Website		3600	3600		
Visitors (1)			32000	32000	
From platinum sponsors		32000	32000		
Sponsored Competitions			60800	60800	
SAS Honours		21800	21800		
StatsSA post graduate		39000	39000		
Bursary			22000	34000	
ICCSSA		12000			
SAS Postgraduate		22000	22000		
Website				2000	
Website buttons	2	1000	2000	2000	
Interest			2774	4000	
Sponsors				89600	
StatsSA (60000)		59600	59600		
Platinum (SAS) (69000)		30000	30000		
					439584
					439584

EXPENDITURE					2014
	#	Budget	Actual	Budget	
EC		57500	44548	57500	
Newsletter				10000	
Graphics	4	10000	4820		
Journal			60589	50000	
Educom				95000	
SASA Bursary and Scholarship Awards	40000	37000*			
Travel/general	14000	6037			
SAS graduate bursary	22000	21000*			
ICCSSA	12000				
Delegate support	7000				
Careers				1100	
SAS MoU				42800	
Young Statisticians project	5700	11000*			
Thought leaders	11500	22000			
Outreach to Schools	22000	3600			
Expert list: Maintenance	3600				
Visitors & Conference host			62000	62000	
Competitions				60800	
SAS Honours	21800	21307			
StatsSA Post-graduate	39000	35797			
Official Stats				500	
IFCS membership				1500	
Chapters			1250	27000	
Image Building				4000	
Admin				27384	
Financial assistant	1500	3971.3			
Bank fees	6000	1300			
AGM	1300	10500			
Accounting fees	10500	857.02			
Website	6000	2084			
Stationary/postage	2084				
					439584
					439584

Draft 2015 Budget

SASA: Proposed Budget 2015					
INCOME		2015		EXPENDITURE	2015
		#		#	
Membership			98627	EC	55000
Ordinary (less VAT)	380	280	93333	Newsletter	10000
Affiliated (less VAT)	4	490	1719	Graphics	4 2500 10000
Senior (less VAT)	25	130	2851	Journal	50000
Student (less VAT)	15	55	724	Educom	95000
Newsletter			26000	SASA Bursary and Scholarship Awards	43000
Ads (sponsors)	4	1500	6000	Travel/general	12000
Ads (Institutional) (less VAT)	4	5000	20000	SAS graduate bursary	23000
Journal			56528	ICCSSA	12000
Overseas USS*	62	84	44268	Delegate support	5000
Local (less VAT) ZAR	15	95.76	1260	Careers	5000
SABINET	1		11000	SAS MoU	44700
SAS MoU items			44700	Young Statisticians project	6000
Young Statisticians project			6000	Thought leader	12000
Thought leader			12000	Outreach to Schools	23000
Outreach to Schools			23000	Expert list: Maintenance	3700
Expert list: Maintenance & Website			3700	Visitors & Conference host	275400
Visitors (1)			32400	Competitions	63550
From platinum sponsors			32400	SAS Honours	22800
Sponsored Competitions			63550	StatsSA Post-graduate	40750
SAS Honours			22800	Official Stats	500
StatsSA post graduate			40750	IFCS membership	1500
Bursary			23000	Chapters	27000
ICCSSA			12000	Image Building	3000
SAS Postgraduate			23000	Admin	25755
Website			2000	Financial assistant	1500
Website buttons	2	1000	2000	Bank fees	5000
Interest			4000	AGM	1000
Sponsors			305600	Accounting fees	10500
StatsSA	(273600)		272600	Website	6000
Platinum (SAS)	(72400)		33000	Stationary/postage	1755
			656405		656405

- The budget for 2015 includes expenses for only one official visitor covered by the Platinum sponsorship, SAS. 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, which ensured various financial commitments (see various headings in the 2015 budget). Competition prizes and bursaries also form part of the 2015 budget.

- StatsSA contribution for conference exhibition, advertising and co-hosting of SASA 2015 conference: R273 600.
- The SAS platinum sponsor of R72 400 will be utilised as follows:
 - R32 400 will be allocated towards the SASA official visitor's expenses, including subsistence.
 - R6 000 will be regarded as newsletter advertisement costs in the four issues.
 - R1 000 will be regarded as website cost for advertisement button.
 - The remainder, R33 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 at R8.5 = US\$1 and a domestic library pays R95.76 (incl. VAT). The estimated income from online hosting of SASJ with SABINET is R11 000.

Membership fees 2015

- Membership fees will remain the same as in 2014.
- Ordinary membership fee – R280 including VAT
- Senior membership fee – R130 including VAT
- Affiliated membership fee – R490 including VAT
- Student membership fee – R55 including VAT

Journal subscription fees 2015

- After discount an overseas library pays US\$84 and a local library pays R95.76 (including VAT).

Lizanne Raubenheimer (Treasurer)

October 2014

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October 2014