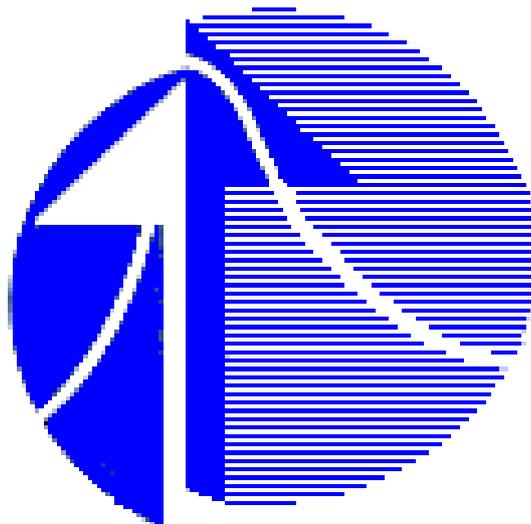


***South African Statistical Association***

***Annual General Meeting***



**2015**



## SASA Annual General Meeting 2014

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# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA OF SASA TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015 AT 11:15 – 12:15 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Minutes of 2014 AGM**
  - 2.1 Approval of the minutes
  - 2.2 Matters arising
- 3. Finalising the agenda**
- 4. Annual report of the Executive Committee 2014/2015**
- 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 2015/2016**
- 8. Financial matters**
  - 8.1 2015 Interim financial statements and report
  - 8.2 Draft 2016 Budget
  - 8.3 Membership fees 2016
  - 8.4 Journal subscription fees 2016
- 9. Executive Committee for 2015/2016**
  - 9.1 Vice-President
  - 9.2 Newsletter Editor
  - 9.3 Editor of the SASJ
- 10. SASA Conference 2016**
  - 10.1 Hosts
  - 10.2 Invited Guests
- 11. Additional matters**
  - 11.1 2015 SASA Constitution Revision
  - 11.2 SACNASP
- 12. Closing**

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SASA HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2014 AT 12:00 AT RHODES UNIVERSITY

## 1. Welcome

*PM welcomed everyone and congratulated Delia North on her birthday today.*

## 2. Minutes of 2013 AGM

2.3 Approval of the minutes

*Approved without any edits.*

2.4 Matters arising

*Nothing added.*

## 3. Finalising the agenda

*Nothing added.*

## 4. Annual report of the Executive Committee 2013/2014

*PM highlighted a few points from his report.*

## 5. Annual report of Fellowship Committee

*Accepted as read.*

## 6. Other reports

6.1 Education Committee

*Accepted as read.*

6.2 Careers Committee

*Accepted as read.*

6.3 Official Statistics Committee

*No report received.*

6.4 ICCSSA Board, including financial report

*PD highlighted some aspects of the report. There is a big emphasis on joining a professional organisation in the NRF. ICCSSA is joining SACNASP as an associated body, just as SASA is currently such a body of SACNASP.*

6.5 MDAG

*Accepted as read.*

6.6 Newsletter Editor

*Accepted as read.*

6.7 Sponsorships

*Accepted as read.*

6.8 Managing Editor Journal

*Accepted as read. LS apologised for non-delivery due to the post office strike. Robert Schall queried the visibility of the journal on Google Scholar. IFR will look into this in 2015.*

6.9 Scientific Editor Journal

*Accepted as read.*

6.10 Chapters

*All accepted as read.*

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**

*Accepted as read. JA pointed out some important aspects. He added that a venture towards online learning will also be investigated.*

**8. Financial matters**

8.5 2014 Interim financial statements and report  
*Accepted as read.*

8.6 Draft 2015 Budget  
*Accepted as read.*

8.7 Membership fees 2015  
*Remain the same for 2015.*

8.8 Journal subscription fees 2015  
*Remain the same for 2015.*

**9. Executive Committee for 2014/2015**

9.1 Vice-President  
*One nomination received: Prof Francesca Little (UCT) appointed.*

9.2 Treasurer  
*One nomination received: Dr Lizanne Raubenheimer (Rhodes) appointed.*

9.3 Journal Managing Editor  
*One nomination received: Dr Leonard Santana (NWU) appointed.*

9.4 Sponsorship  
*One nomination received: Mrs Yoko Chhanna (Wits) appointed.*

**10. SASA Conference 2015**

10.1 Hosts  
*A call for hosts was made in the newsletter. Only one volunteer – UP. The dates for the Conference 30 November – 3 December 2014.*

10.2 Invited Guests  
*No nominations were received. Call will be put out again in the December newsletter – due date for nominations is now 15 January 2014.*

**11. Additional matters**

11.1 MDAG Draft Constitution  
*Accepted and approved.  
MDAG application for IFCS affiliation was also applied. Special rates for conferences and some other minor benefits will then apply to all MDAG members.*

11.2 2015 SASA Constitution Revision  
*GS and MJ will do this in 2015. One topic that will be looked into: extending the president's term to two years.*

11.3 Proposal by ICCSSA regarding joint conferences  
*No progress on this. EC is still waiting for a proposal from the ICCSSA board. This point will be removed from the agenda if the proposal is not received by April EC meeting.*

**12. Closing**

*The meeting was concluded at 12:40.*

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## ANNUAL REPORTS

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### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014/2015

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We are all looking forward to the SASA 2015 conference that will be hosted by the University of Pretoria and co-hosted by StatsSA. The local organising committee has decided on a new format for the conference and we are all very excited and anticipate great things. Looking at the conference programme it is clear that the academic quality is of the highest standard and that the organisers have gone out of their way to attract the top researchers, both nationally and internationally. For researchers, both young and old, this is a conference not to be missed! We as EC would like to thank the entire local organising committee for the excellent job they have done.

SASA received R6 million from the NRF at the beginning of the year to help alleviate the crisis faced by academic statistics in South Africa. This is a fantastic development in a process which was initiated more than two years ago. In this regard I would like to once again thank Roelof Coetzer, Riaan de Jongh, Tertius de Wet, Freek Lombard, Andriette Bekker, Sonali Das, and Francesca Little for all their hard work in laying the groundwork. The organisation is deeply grateful to the NRF for recognising the urgency of the situation and making these funds available. I would also like to express my gratitude to the committee (in particular the chair, Paul Mostert) which has been working diligently to perform all the administration involved in the redistribution of these funds. A special word of thanks also goes to all the evaluators of the applications (Linda Haines, Tertius de Wet, Paul Fatti, Renette Blignaut, Sarah Radloff, Gary Sharp, Tim Dunne, Riaan de Jongh, Freek Lombard and Jacky Galpin) for their careful and meticulous consideration of the applications that they were asked to assess.

A total of 45 people have benefitted to date from the allocation of these funds. Bursaries were allocated for full- and part-time Masters, Doctoral, staff development and post-doctoral studies. As part of the "knowledge share" initiative, funds were also allocated for *PhD supervision*, *research support*, and *capacity building* at various universities. Furthermore, a bursary-holders mentorship workshop has been organised for all recipients of the abovementioned bursaries. This workshop will take place on the 3rd of December, 2015. During the workshop mentors will be involved in a panel discussion, as well as host motivational talks for the students. The students will also be given the opportunity to present on their progress to date and discuss their work with the mentors. Finally, the association has also contributed R200 000 of these funds to the Centre of Excellence in Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (CoE-MASS) to help upgrade the infrastructure of the CoE's distance learning facility.

Support and funding in these categories will continue in 2016 with a new cohort in order to achieve the long term goal of producing young academic statisticians capable of training generations to come. Calls for applications for 2016 have already gone out and I urge all statistics departments to make use of these funding opportunities.

Another new innovation in the association is that the SASA newsletter has been changed to a web-based format. We thank Mardi Jankowitz for all her efforts in putting this together.

The SASA constitution has undergone a thorough review during the course of the past year with the intent to keep our policies relevant. The proposed additions and modifications will be presented and discussed in detail at the AGM. However, I would like to highlight one of the suggested changes, and that is that the term of the vice-president, president, and past-president are proposed to be changed from the current single year term to a two year term in the future. This was proposed in order to ensure greater continuity in the leadership of SASA. Our gratitude goes to Gary Sharp for his patience and hard work in his multiple revisions of the constitution.

Some good news that we received this year is that Statisticians were finally included in the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET) draft list of occupations in *high demand* for 2015. It is important that we monitor this list in future to ensure that Statisticians remain on this list.

I would also like to extend my thanks to StatsSA and SAS for their commitment and support to SASA by providing indispensable sponsorships used for the general running of SASA, the student competitions and annual conference. Without these 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.

The South African Statistical Journal (SASJ) continues to go from strength to strength under the steady leadership of the editor, Sarah Radloff. With the hope of eventually restoring the journal onto the ISI list of accredited journals, many initiatives that were introduced in recent years are helping us inch ever closer to attaining this goal. For example, the journal now regularly publishes papers from distinguished international guests of the SASA conferences which include discussion-and-comment type papers. Many thanks therefore go out to Sarah and the rest of the editorial team involved with SASJ.

Thanks go to Delia North and the rest of the Education Committee for their hard work in running and administrating the various SASA competitions as well as for various other initiatives that they are involved in. One activity which deserves particular attention is a direct outcome of the 2014 SASA Education Workshop on "the online teaching of statistics". This workshop was a resounding success and led to the realisation that advances in technology could be fruitfully applied to the improvement of statistics education at grassroots level at South African universities. As a result, the Education Committee formed a team tasked with the development of a repository of e-learning materials for introductory statistics courses that could be used by universities around the country. I feel that this undertaking is a positive move which has the potential to add great value to the teaching of first year level statistics in South Africa.

Finally, I would just like to personally thank each and every member of the EC for their hard work and support during the year. Many hours went into SASA related activities and, even though the work done by the EC is entirely voluntary, I believe that they gave 110%. I appreciate all the sacrifices that were made. I wish Francesca all the best for next year as the incoming president.

**James Allison (President 2014/2015)**

**November 2015**

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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The SASA Fellowship committee comprises of the last six available Past Presidents, i.e. Herrie van Rooy, Yoko Chhana, Pravesh Debba, Gary Sharp, Roelof Coetzer and Paul Mostert. The committee received one nomination each for Honorary Membership and Fellowship. I am pleased to announce that the Professor Max Finkelstein of the University of the Free State was unanimously elected as Honorary Member of SASA:

On behalf of SASA, I would like to congratulate him on this wonderful achievement and is well deserved.

**Paul Mostert**

**November 2015**

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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The SASA Education Committee has once again had a very eventful year, with competitions, capacity building and outreach activities running smoothly, as a result of a very dedicated team of committed statisticians from around the country giving generously of their time.

The committee remains stable, with only one change occurring at year end, when Chantelle Clohessy (NMMU) replaced Warren Brettany (also NMMU) on the committee. We want to take this opportunity to thank Warren for his many years of dedicated service as newsletter correspondent and organizer of our second year competition. He did a splendid job and furthermore, his offer of mentoring Chantelle to take on his portfolio, is just another indication of his dedication to the work of the Education Committee. Thank you Warren, we are going to miss you!

Members of the committee, with their primarily focus for 2015 were as follows:

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Portfolio</i></b>
Dunne, Tim (co-opted)	Paper competition for young statisticians to attend ISI2015
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, co-ordinate activities of MOU's
Huang, Karl	SAS Honours Project , University Teaching
Ivona Contardo Berning	University Teaching

Fransonet is our very able secretary, most probably one of the most efficient people I have ever had the joy of working with! She has does everything 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 performs the secretarial duties, but is also solely responsible for all matters related to the post graduate paper competition for MSc and PhD students, sponsored by Stats SA. This competition sadly only attracted 5 entries from 3 universities this year (UCT, UP, NMMU). Despite the low number of entries, the judges commented on the high standard of the winning entries. Details of the winning entries may be found in the newsletter and website. The winning entry will be presented during the 2015 SASA conference in Pretoria. Fransonet, we appreciate all the hard work that you have done on behalf of the committee!

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 handled all matters related to this competition. Winners were announced in January 2015 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! You have been very valuable to this committee indeed and we look forward to Chantelle learning from you.

The Third Year competition aims to target outstanding third year Statistics major students, studying toward a honours degree in Statistics the following year. Lizelle Fletcher was once again responsible for all aspects of the competition, which ran flawlessly in true Lizelle - style. Entries have been sent out for third year students of 2015, winners will be announced in January, 2016. The first prize (scholarship) is be sponsored by SAS, whilst two second prizes (bursaries) are awarded each year, one sponsored by SASA, the other sponsored by ICCSSA. This competition is gaining in popularity each year, thank you Lizelle!

The SASA student honours project competition was sponsored by SAS for the ninth consecutive year, a wonderful commitment! Hannah Gerber is fully responsible for the running of this competition, and in addition, has been mentoring Karl Huang to take over some of the duties in 2016. I have every reason to believe that Karl will flourish under this mentorship and become as invaluable to this committee as Hannah has been over many years. The SASA honours project competition had a total of 18 entries this year, from 7 universities (Wits, UCT, UFS UKZN, UP, US, NMMU). Results were released to HoDs and appeared in the newsletter in Aug 2015. The winner of the competition will present the winning entry at the 2015 SASA conference.

The WSC Young Statistician competition was initially defined for the ISI Conference in Hong Kong (2013). The competition was conceptualized with the aim to take

young statisticians from Africa to ISI, to expose them to the highest level of innovation in academia internationally. This competition was repeated for the 2015 ISI conference (Rio, August this year), with Stats SA sponsoring all aspects of the 2015-competition. Tim Dunne once again saw to all aspects of the competition. Tim brings experience and expertise to the most difficult competition to run, as there are so many different aspects to this competition, so thank you Tim for a job well done, yet once again!

Yoko is a wonderful asset to our committee, with her finger on the pulse of the MOU's with SAS and Stats SA, as well as her doing a great job of getting news onto the website. Yoko is a very valuable link between our committee and ICCSSA and the SASA EC – with her efficiency and attention to detail, we are always sure that our various activities are dovetailing with the other SASA initiatives. Thank you Yoko for all that you do on the Education committee.

The committee has once again organized a workshop during the 2015 SASA Conference. The Education workshop this year, is titled “Creating on-line Teaching Materials for Teaching Introductory Statistics in South Africa” and will be held on the Sunday prior to the Opening of the conference. Prof. Chris Wild (Auckland University, NZ), a leading expert in Statistics Education internationally, will be presenting the workshop, which aims to explore the latest innovations in teaching introductory statistics in the modern era. There will further be some structured education sessions in the parallel part of the conference, which will consist of invited talks on the topic of complexities of teaching statistics at first year level in South Africa. The workshops and invited talks are part of the ongoing project the committee started early in 2015, i.e. exploring the most effective way to teach introductory statistics through visualization, using international best practices that are relevant to the South African situation, blended with what is available and working locally, in order to develop an on-line blended- learning statistics module for teaching introductory statistics locally. The Education committee has put together a panel of local Statisticians from around the country that will continue with the project that will kick-start with events at SASA this year. Members of the South African panel are Delia North (UKZN), James Allison (NWU), Fransonet Reyneke and Lizelle Fletcher (UP), Ivona Contardo Berning (US), Leanne Scott (UCT), Sam Paddock (GetSmart) with other members added as needed. *Yoko Chhana (Wits) to be part of the committee as she is a vital link with MOU's as funding will be needed*

Outreach activities remain a strong focus of this committee, with a series of maths4stats workshops run at UKZN again, growing in leaps and bounds each year, with just over 2 800 teachers having attended the 5-weekend course, which is run in three parallel venues at each of 5 lesson. The UWC further runs teacher workshops annually and is playing a very valuable role in the WC. Negotiations are currently under way to extend the UKZN program to have a further “train-the-trainer” element, where DBE subject advisors will receive training in basic statistics concepts and associated pedagogy, but it depends on funding being made available by DBE.

So, all in all, the committee can report that 2015 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 2016 will be even more productive for our committee than 2015 was.

**Delia North (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAREERS COMMITTEE AND  
CONSTITUTION REVISION**

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The primary focus of the year was to assist with the constitution revision and update the Careers in Statistics brochure. In addition, articles from fellow statisticians have continued to appear in the SASA newsletter in order to inform our readers of what statistics graduates are doing in the market place. Unfortunately due to time constraints, progress with regards to the brochure has been limited. The current information will be made available for the incoming Chair and it is suggested that this be their primary objective for 2016.

That aside, the constitution revision has seen several drafts circulated within the EC as well as solicited input from senior SASA members. These drafts have incorporated comments from the EC members and those of the senior SASA members. The revision will be tabled at the annual AGM 2015 and further comments, suggestions and corrections attended to before circulating to members post-conference. There are several proposed changes to the constitution and the EC requests that as many members as possible attend the AGM. Some of the changes have far-reaching consequences and it is in the Association's best interest if everyone's input can be accommodated. In closing, this will be my last report as the chair of the career's committee. I take this opportunity to thank the EC members for their support over the years; in particular Mardi Jankowitz who always accommodated my late submissions to the newsletter. I wish the 2016 EC all the best and look forward to the ongoing growth of the SASA community.

**Gary Sharp (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS COMMITTEE**

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No report received.

**Arul Naidoo (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ICCSSA BOARD**

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On 24 July 2015 ICCSSA held its first breakfast seminar. The talk was given by Professor Paul Fatti on "Big Data, Data Science and Analytics – The End of Statistics". It was well received and initiated a very lively discussion. The event was sponsored by SAS and SACNASP. The ICCSSA Board has decided that over the next few years the ICCSSA convention would be replaced by regular ICCSSA seminars.

ICCSSA is the recognised statistical professional body with SAQA for the purposes of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act, Act 67 of 2008 and SAQA has approved the registration of the Chartered Statistician (ChM) and Certificated Statistician (CeM) for professional designations on the NQF.

On Wednesday 29 July 2015 the SACNASP Council adopted Statistical Science as a separate field of practice - separate from Mathematical Science. The Minister of Science and Technology approved the recommendation by the SACNASP council on 17 August 2015. On 20 November 2015 Statistical Science has been gazetted as a field of practice. Therefore, ICCSSA will commence with setting up its processes to register present ICCSSA members who are not members of SACNASP with SACNASP. Several discussions need to take place around registration, annual membership / registration fees, card structure, and linking with continuous professional development (CPD) and accreditation of courses.

SACNASP is moving towards not just registering scientists as of a particular date, but also ensuring that they remain up-to-date with the latest developments in their field through a structured CPD programme. Once the CPD system is set up within SACNASP, ICCSSA would use SACNASP's structure to administer the CPD programme. Going forward, people will be referred to submit their membership application, accreditation of courses, etc to SACNASP and ICCSSA will enter into an agreement with SACNASP as to how the funding would be distributed.

In addition, SACNASP now accepts applications from Statisticians who were not trained through the traditional natural science (BSc.) stream, such as BCom. (Statistics) graduates. This has been made possible by the creation of new categories of registration, i.e. Associate Natural Scientist for people with an Honours degree equivalent or higher, as well as the Technical Associate category for those with a B-degree or related diplomas. Dr Roelof Coetzer and Prof Jacky Galpin have been appointed to the new SACNASP Council as from 1 May 2015.

Since 2011, ICCSSA has been positioned within SASA as an associated society as per the SASA constitution and ICCSSA Bye-Laws. At the time, this decision was supported to ensure that the very small community of statisticians is not divided through the formation of ICCSSA. However, over the five year period it has been observed that SASA and ICCSSA have different mandates, roles and objectives; not always attracting the same statisticians from the statistical fraternity. SASA's strength is that people do not need to be accredited professionals to be part of SASA, only to be interested in statistics, so it addresses a much wider (and very important) audience, with its strong structure of newsletters, conferences, workshops and chapter meetings. It seems that ICCSSA's role would now be much more focussed on working with SACNASP with respect to CPD, accreditation of courses and helping to implement the new Statistics Act. It therefore appears that this may result in the membership of ICCSSA not totally overlapping with SASA.

With the revision of the SASA constitution and ICCSSA Bye-Laws due this year, the ICCSSA board decided that it would be best for ICCSSA not to be within SASA, and to form its own constitution and Bye-Laws. Now that Statistics has been accepted as a separate field of practice and with the strengthened relationship and alignment with SACNASP, ICCSSA's constitution and Bye-Laws would have to reflect the way ICCSSA would operate within SACNASP since the latter is the mandatory body for professional scientists in South Africa. The ICCSSA Board feels very strongly about its continued support to SASA and it is committed to maintaining a good relationship with SASA. Furthermore, ICCSSA would encourage its members to register with SASA through the CPD programme e.g. CPD received on attending SASA conferences and workshops. ICCSSA is also considering organising an ICCSSA

themed parallel stream within the SASA conference each year from 2016, which will encourage ICCSSA members to attend the SASA conference.

The ICCSSA board has taken the decision to be independent from SASA and not to be an associated body of SASA, but to form its own constitution and Bye-Laws. The Board of ICCSSA trusts that SASA will accept this decision in good faith and that the two organisations can work together to strengthen and grow the statistics discipline in South Africa.

**Pravesh Debba (Chairperson: ICCSSA Board)**

**November 2015**

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### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MDAG COMMITTEE**

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During the SASA AGM of November 2014 the constitution of MDAG was approved and the MDAG EC was given the support of the SASA members to pursue affiliation with the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS). The MDAG EC applied for affiliation in December 2014 and became an affiliated member of the IFCS in April 2015.

The MDAG membership grew from 39 members in October 2014 to 57 members in November 2015. The MDAG EC would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new members. Since the members are spread throughout South Africa, general meetings through the course of the year are challenging. The executive committee aimed to organise a speaker for the Gauteng region during the year, but unfortunately this was not accomplished. New initiatives to promote electronic communication and 'meetings' between members is tabled for discussion at the MDAG AGM on 1 December 2015.

Five MDAG members attended the IFCS conference, 6 – 8 July at the University of Bologna. Two members attended the Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods (CARME) conference, 21 – 23 September at the Università degli Studi di Napoli 'Federico II'. The CARME-network invited MDAG to host the next CARME conference in 2019 in Cape Town and the MDAG EC accepted this invitation. Furthermore, a special session is organised at the 2015 SASA conference. We are delighted to have the president of the IFCS, Prof Maurizio Vichi from Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" as mini-plenary speaker.

**Sugnet Lubbe (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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Electronic newsletters, in the form of a pdf file, were put on the website during March and June 2015. The newsletter of September 2015 was sent in a new electronic format where articles could be accessed directly. It is also on the website. Thank you to all members who contributed.

**Mardi Jankowitz (Newsletter Editor)**

**November 2015**

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR SPONSORSHIPS

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SASA received sponsorships from StatsSA, SAS and ICCSSA for 2015. These sponsorships have supported the following SASA activities: student bursaries, student paper competitions, scholarships and capacity building initiatives. This year, the SASA conference is also co-hosted by StatsSA. SASA is appreciative of the continued support received from our sponsors.

**Yoko Chhana (Sponsorships)**

**November 2015**

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

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Two issues appeared in 2015 (as per usual), with eight papers in both the first and second issue. One of the papers in the first issue was an invited paper by M. I. Gomes, one of the SASA 2014 conference invited overseas speakers.

There was a minor problem with the printing of a few copies of the second issue of the journal this year. The problem was addressed and corrected copies were sent out.

In addition to the regular papers that will be published next year, the first issue of 2016 (Volume 50, number 1) will also contain a discussion paper by the invited guest of the SASA 2014 conference, S. G. Meintanis, along with comment papers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the editor, Sarah Radloff, for her thoroughness, keen-eye, and professionalism in running the journal. Sarah has accepted the next three year term coming up.

**Leonard Santana (Managing Editor)**

**November 2015**

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL EDITOR

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The Journal received 74 submissions during the period November 2014 to October 2015.

The current state of these submissions is:

Accepted for publication	8
Rejected	44
Invited to resubmit	8
Under review	8
Not processed	6
Total	74

In the first issue of volume 49 in 2015, eight papers were published which included an invited paper from Professor Ivette Gomes, an official visitor to the 2014 SASA Conference. In the second issue eight papers were published.

The editorial board consists of the following Associate Editors: Akim Adekpedjou, Tertius de Wet, Max Finkelstein, Carl Lombard, Samuel Manda, Noel Veraverbeke, Khangelani Zuma and Professor Simos Meintanis who joined the editorial board this year; and the Managing Editor, Leonard Santana. I would like to sincerely thank the Associate Editors and Managing Editor for their support during the year.

**Sarah Radloff (Scientific Editor)**

**November 2015**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTERN CAPE CHAPTER**

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The Western Cape Chapter of SASA held a meeting in Stellenbosch on Tuesday, 17 November 2015.

Prof. Gregory Levitin was the speaker. He is presently a senior expert at the Reliability Department of the Israel Electric Corporation and a distinguished visiting professor at University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. The title of his talk was "Merging game theory and risk analysis in optimal defence of complex stochastic systems".

**Tom Berning (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GAUTENG CHAPTER**

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The Gauteng chapter did not hold a meeting during 2015.

**Sonali Das (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VAAL-NORTH-WEST CHAPTER**

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The Potchefstroom campus of the North-West University hosted a seminar by Prof. Joseph Ngatchou Wandji, from the University of Lorraine, Lorraine, France. The seminar was held on 20 August 2015. The topic of his talk was "*On the kernel density estimators for dependent and non-stationary random fields*". After the talk, the speaker answered some questions and discussions among the attendees and the speaker commenced. A light finger lunch was given after the seminar. The talk was well attended by the Statistics community and students.

The next seminar will be held at the Vaal campus of the NWU in 2016. A formal date in 2016 must still be arranged. It is the intention to get a speaker from Sasol, and a speaker from academia to present their research during this seminar.

**WD Schutte (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FREE STATE CHAPTER

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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: "Annual Research Forum". It's held in the first quarter every year (in this case 26 and 27 February). We invite speakers from universities in South Africa and Europe, as well as representatives from industry. This forum 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.

**Morné Sjölander (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL CHAPTER

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The activities of the chapter are mainly talks on topics of interest. A number of seminars are presented by academic staff members and postgraduate students at UKZN. The biostatistics journal club is the other active academic forum for biostatistics researchers, practitioners and postgraduate students in UKZN, CAPRISA and MRC. The club has regular meetings, presentations and discussions. The Maths4Stats training for high school teachers. Five weekend training in Pietermaritzburg at UKZN campus. The program was led and coordinated by Prof Delia North and facilitated by StatSA and DoE. The training aims on equipping school teachers how to teach statistics with confidence and good sense of understanding to the learners. In the last week of May 2015 we are hosted Prof Iven VAN MECHELEN, a scholar from Belgium. We also hosted visitors from Drake university and from Sweden.

We have already set to host Prof Chris Wild, one of the invited speakers in the upcoming SASA conference.

**(for) Temesgen Zewotir (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTERN CAPE CHAPTER

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The first Eastern Cape Chapter of SASA meeting was held in August at Rhodes University. Seminars were presented by two visiting Professors, **Professor Akim Adekpedjou** from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Missouri University of Science and Technology in the USA, and **Professor Joseph Wandji** from the University of Lorraine in France. A record number of 32 colleagues from UFH, WSU, NMMU and RU attended. **Emeritus Professor Anestis Antoniadis**

formally from the University Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, in France and presently at UCT presented seminars at the second Eastern Cape Chapter of SASA meetings in September at Rhodes University and at NMMU. Professor Steven Heeringa and Professor Tim Schwartz will be visiting the Eastern Cape Chapter after the SASA conference in December. We are again indebted to SASA for financial assistance, without which these meetings would not have been possible.

**Sarah Radloff (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIMPOPO CHAPTER**

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No report received.

**Timotheus Darikwa (Chairperson)**

**November 2015**

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### **INITIATIVES FOR 2015/2016: INCOMING PRESIDENT**

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I take over the reigns from James Allison as president of SASA during a tumultuous period in academia. We have been talking about a crisis in Academic Statistics but I think we all face a different kind of crisis at our respective universities, and one that makes it even more of a challenge to stay focused and to continue to do what is best for our discipline and our students.

We face many challenges, including how to ensure access to good university training to all deserving young South Africans, how to bridge the gap between school and university in terms of the level of mathematical skills required for our discipline, how to continue to offer undergraduate and postgraduate curricula of high standing that will prepare our young students for careers in industry and research, how to increase the supervisory capacity at the different academic institutions, how to keep students in academia for a little longer before they enter the workplace, how to encourage some of them to become academics to ensure that we have lecturers and professors who can train the future generations of statisticians.

But we are also very fortunate to live in an era where any discipline that has to do with the analysis of data is in big demand and is considered to be an attractive, exciting and even “sexy” (to quote Hal Varian) career option. This is evident in the many universities that have started to offer programs in Data Science. This renewed interest in people who can extract information from lots of data offers a unique opportunity for academia and industry to work more closely together. In addition we are fortunate to live in an era where the barriers to communication have been largely removed through the use of technology and hence there should be less chance of being a “lone academic” isolated from other like-minded people who share your research interests.

During 2016, I hope to lead the SASA executive committee and the larger Statistics community in

- (1) continuing the initiatives started by the previous two presidents to strengthen academic Statistics departments by reaching out to more universities,

broadening the kind of assistance that we provide and by fostering closer links with the CoE-MaSS;

(2) enabling more continued communication between statisticians from different universities, research organizations and industry through better use of the SASA website and links from this website to departmental and organizational web pages;

(3) allowing us all to showcase the activities of departments, organizations and individuals so that we can start celebrating our achievements.

**Francesca Little (Incoming President 2014/2015)**

**November 2015**

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## **INTERIM 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES ON 2016 BUDGET**

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### **2015 Interim financial statements and report**

All amounts in the interim financial report represent transactions to 21 November 2015 of all SASA bank accounts.

- Spiral account balance as on 21 November 2015: R279 265.23
- Cheque account balance as on 21 November 2015: R604 644.29
- Fixed term deposit investment as on 21 November 2015: R 70 235.73

#### Income

- The online Journal hosting at SABINET generated an income of R12 594 (excl. VAT).
- A total of 12 local libraries are subscribed to SASJ, and a total of 56 overseas libraries are subscribed to SASJ.
- A total of 67 new members joined SASA in 2015, 42 members did not renew their SASA membership for 2015 or were deleted from the list since they have not paid for 2014 and 2015. A total of 59 membership fees are outstanding for 2015 as on 21 November 2015. Total paid-up members 454 (including honorary members). There are 74 students on the student list, they did not pay any fees this year.

#### Expenses

- Estimated outstanding newsletter expenses, September and December issues: R5 000.
- SAS sponsored money still included in the current account as on 21 November 2015: Thought leader (R12 000), Young Statisticians award (R6 000), SAS graduate bursary (R23 000) and Outreach to Schools (R23 000) need to be awarded in the 2015 financial year.
- The total amount in the 2014 budget for the SASA bursary and scholarship awards was R40 000. This was for the 2014 winners, announced early in 2015. This was also paid early in 2015.
- Some chapter claims are still outstanding.
- AGM booklets and expenses are outstanding.
- Bank fees also include costs on US dollar deposits for journal subscriptions.



## **Draft 2016 Budget**

- The budget for 2016 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 2016 budget). Competition prizes and bursaries also form part of the 2016 budget.
- StatsSA contribution for conference exhibition, advertising, website button and Statistical capacity building initiatives undertaken by SASA: R66 000.
- The SAS platinum sponsor of R76 000 will be utilised as follows:
  - R35 000 will be allocated towards the SASA official visitor's expenses, including subsistence.
  - R7 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 R11 = US\$1 and a domestic library pays R95.76 (incl. VAT). The estimated income from online hosting of SASJ with SABINET is R12 000.

SASA: Proposed Budget 2016									
INCOME				2016	EXPENDITURE				2016
	#					#			
<b>Membership</b>				<b>103158</b>	<b>EC</b>				<b>50000</b>
Ordinary (less VAT)	380	300	100000						
Affiliated (less VAT)	2	500	877		<b>Newsletter</b>				<b>8000</b>
Senior (less VAT)	20	130	2281		Graphics	4	2000	8000	
					<b>Journal</b>				<b>75000</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>				<b>13000</b>	<b>Educom</b>				<b>94000</b>
Ads (sponsors)	4	1750	7000		SASA Bursary and Scholarship Awards			47000	
Ads (Institutional) (less VAT)	3	2000	6000		Travel/general			10000	
					SAS graduate bursary			24000	
<b>Journal</b>				<b>63660</b>	ICCSSA			13000	
Overseas US\$*	55	84	50820		<b>Careers &amp; Image building &amp; Official Stats</b>				<b>5000</b>
Local (less VAT) ZAR	10	95.76	840		<b>SAS MoU</b>				<b>42800</b>
SABINET	1		12000		Young Statisticians project			6300	
					Thought leader			12500	
<b>SAS MoU items</b>				<b>46600</b>	Outreach to Schools			24000	
Young Statisticians project			6300		Expert list: Maintenance & Website			3800	
Thought leader			12500		<b>Visitors (1)</b>				<b>35000</b>
Outreach to Schools			24000		From platinum sponsors			35000	
Expert list: Maintenance & Website			3800		<b>Sponsored Competitions</b>				<b>66000</b>
					SAS Honours			24000	
<b>Visitors (1)</b>				<b>35000</b>	StatsSA post graduate			42000	
From platinum sponsors			35000		<b>Bursary</b>				<b>37000</b>
					ICCSSA			13000	
<b>Sponsored Competitions</b>				<b>66000</b>	SAS Postgraduate			24000	
SAS Honours			24000		<b>Website</b>				<b>2000</b>
StatsSA post graduate			42000		Website buttons	2	1000	2000	
					<b>Interest</b>				<b>4000</b>
<b>Bursary</b>				<b>37000</b>	<b>Sponsors</b>				<b>98000</b>
ICCSSA			13000		StatsSA	(66000)	65000		
SAS Postgraduate			24000		Platinum (SAS)	(76000)	33000		
<b>Website</b>				<b>2000</b>					
Website buttons	2	1000	2000		<b>IFCS membership</b>				<b>1500</b>
					<b>Chapters</b>				<b>24000</b>
<b>Interest</b>				<b>4000</b>	<b>Admin</b>				<b>29118</b>
<b>Sponsors</b>				<b>98000</b>	Financial assistant			1500	
StatsSA	(66000)	65000			Bank fees			5000	
Platinum (SAS)	(76000)	33000			AGM			1000	
					Accounting fees			12000	
					Website & Expert list: maintenance			6800	
					Stationary/postage			2818	
				<b>468418</b>					<b>468418</b>

### Membership fees 2016

Proposal of an increase of R20 for ordinary members and R10 for affiliated members.

Ordinary membership fee – R300 including VAT

Senior membership fee – R130 including VAT

Affiliated membership fee – R500 including VAT

Student membership fee – free for full-time students.

**Journal subscription fees 2016**

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

**Lizanne Raubenheimer (Treasurer)**

**November 2015**

**Sincere thanks to the following contributors**

**James Allison  
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Lizanne Raubenheimer**

**SASA's AGM booklet compiled by**

**Inger Fabris-Rotelli (Secretary)**

**November 2015**