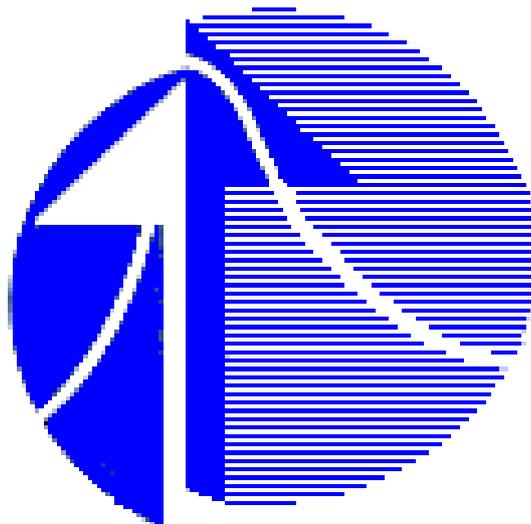


South African Statistical Association

Annual General Meeting



2016

SASA Annual General Meeting 2014

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA OF SASA TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 14:40 – 15:50 AT THE CONGO
VENUE, RIVERCLUB**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Minutes of 2015 AGM**
 - 2.1 Approval of the minutes
 - 2.2 Matters arising
- 3. Finalising the agenda**
- 4. Annual report of the Executive Committee 2015/2016**
- 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 2017 - 2018**
- 8. Financial matters**
 - 8.1 2016 Interim financial statements and report
 - 8.2 Draft 2017 Budget
 - 8.3 Membership fees 2017
 - 8.4 Journal subscription fees 2017
- 9. Executive Committee for 2016/2017**
 - 9.1 Secretary
- 10. SASA Conference 2017**
 - 10.1 Hosts
 - 10.2 Invited Guests
- 11. Additional matters**
 - 11.1 SACNASP Statistical Science Description
- 12. Closing**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SASA HELD ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015 AT 11:15 – 12:15 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of 2014 AGM**
 - 2.3 Approval of the minutes - *approved*
 - 2.4 Matters arising - *none added*
3. **Finalising the agenda – *nothing added***
4. **Annual report of the Executive Committee 2014/2015**

Thanks for the NRF Crises grant task team and the referees for the bursary awards. JA also mentioned the SASA newsletter's new format which all members will receive via email.
5. **Annual report of Fellowship Committee – *Taken as read***
6. **Other reports**
 - 6.1 Education Committee
Taken as read
 - 6.2 Careers Committee
Taken as read
 - 6.3 Official Statistics Committee
Taken as read
 - 6.4 ICCSSA Board, including financial report
From 2015 the ICCSSA breakfast events have replaced the convention. The
rest of
the report was taken as read.
 - 6.5 MDAG
Taken as read
 - 6.6 Newsletter Editor
The EC will look into making a pdf version from the web version and follow up
on
members who didn't get the email.
 - 6.7 Sponsorships
Taken as read
 - 6.8 Managing Editor Journal
In 2016 the EC will look into streamlining the online submission process.
 - 6.9 Scientific Editor Journal
Taken as read
 - 6.10 Chapters
Taken 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 2015/2016**

In 2016 Prof Little would like to look at what the EC can do for SASA – let us know. Also, more use of the website for communication and look into what we are doing well – and move slightly away from the crises.
8. **Financial matters**
 - 8.5 2015 Interim financial statements and report

- Taken as read*
- 8.6 Draft 2016 Budget
 - Taken as read*
- 8.7 Membership fees 2016
 - Taken as read and approved*
- 8.8 Journal subscription fees 2016
 - Taken as read*

9. Executive Committee for 2015/2016

- 9.1 Vice-President – *Congratulations to Danie Uys, only one nomination received.*
- 9.2 Newsletter Editor – *one nomination, Mardi Jankowitz repeats a term.*
- 9.3 Editor of the SASJ – *one nominaton, Sarah Radloff repeats a term.*

10. SASA Conference 2016

- 10.1 Hosts – *UCT will host in 2016*
- 10.2 Invited Guests – *No nominations have been received. The members were asked to please send in nominations by January. The call will also be advertised in the January newsletter.*

11. Additional matters

- 11.1 2015 SASA Constitution Revision – *GS mentioned the changes and the changes were discussed. Voting will take place via the website in early 2016.*
- 11.3 SACNASP – *The representative from SACNASP did not come.*

12. Closing

ANNUAL REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014/2015

As I write this report, last minute preparation for the 58th annual SASA conference, to be held in Cape Town is under way. The local organising committee will remember this process as one of planning a whole conference, including venue, food and budget, and then undoing it all and starting again with new venue, new food, new budget as a result of the protests on UCT campus.

I think the SASA Executive committee will remember this as a year of funding woes. Our two main sponsors, SAS and Statistics South Africa took until mid-November before confirming that they would sponsor us for 2016 as before. This was partly due to changes in management structures at the respective organisations. But also that these sponsors are asking for much more accountability from our side. They want to have a larger say in how their money is spent. They have BEE requirements to fulfil. For a while this put our conference and in particular our student competitions and bursaries in jeopardy. We are thankful to both SAS and StatsSA for finally agreeing to continue sponsoring our organisation and we look forward to future collaboration with them. However, it is also clear that the time has come to look at additional sources of funding.

On a different note, the NRF once again put aside R6 million for student and staff development to alleviate the crisis in academic statistics. This initiative is aimed at capacity building and we are starting to see some success in that almost at every statistics department some of our bursary holders and/or post docs have been employed either permanently or on contract. Under the staff development category, we were able to award young academics for their output in the form of accredited publications and successful student supervision. We hope this will encourage them to publish more and supervise more and will provide them with funding to attend a conference, buy a book or a computer to assist their research endeavours and eventually be able to apply successfully for NRF rating. A detailed report appear elsewhere but the EC would like to thank Paul Mostert for his continued very capable management of this initiative.

In January a group of representatives from SASA and from academic departments attended an NRF workshop to discuss the need for postgraduate training in Mathematics and Statistics and the possible collaboration between institutions in this regards. At that workshop a committee was assembled to evaluate the merit of the different proposals and to write a formal proposal. The Statistics community is represented on that committee by *James Allison, Renette Blignaut, and Maseka Lesaoana*. *I believe that the chair of the committee, Loyiso Nongxa, will be reporting back at the conference on progress made during the year in this regard.*

SACNASP (the South African Council of Natural Scientific Professions) towards the end of 2015 agreed to recognise Statistical Science as a field of practice in its own right, as opposed to grouping it with Mathematics. We thank Pravesh Debba for his efforts in this regards. This required the writing of a separate "identification of work description" which we will present to you for your input at the AGM. Should you wish to practice as a statistical consultant, you need to be registered with SACNASP. SASA will be working with SACNASP to develop a CPD programme for Statistical Science.

As tabled at the SASA AGM on 2 December 2015, SASA EC meeting on 14 April 2016 and ICCSSA board meeting on 22 April 2016, SASA and ICCSSA will operate

independently in future. There are various reasons for this, amongst others, (1) the focus of the two organisations is very different, with the aim of ICCSSA to serve the needs of industry, (2) SASA constitution could be very limiting for ICCSSA, especially on the financial model and (3) ICCSSA is not bound by SASA so that ICCSSA could truly deliver on its mandate, by constantly reshaping and adjusting to industry needs as challenges are encountered. There is agreement that the two organisations work together on various projects and this would be stipulated in a MoU between the two organisations.

In 2016 we celebrated the 50th volume of the South African Statistical Journal! James Alison stood in as editor while Prof Sarah Radloff was recovering from an operation. We changed the group of Associate Editors and decide on the establishment of a scientific committee to assist in the pre-refereeing of submissions. Efforts are under way to apply for ISI rating.

Our website underwent a major update, and we thank Inger Fabris-Rotelli for her hard work in doing this. We hope you will find it an interesting up-to-date website full of relevant information and interesting links to other websites, including links to statistics departments and research organisations. We hope that you will use it as a site to communicate with other statisticians and to inform the statistic community of events and achievements at your institution.

We created a new portfolio on the SASA executive committee at the beginning of the year aimed at looking in particular after the young statisticians. Jaco Visagie was elected to look after this portfolio and wasted no time in coming up with a impressive revised careers brochure, creating a SASA Facebook page and making sure that young statisticians are featured on a regular basis in our newsletter. The newsletter's electronic format was further refined and we can all agree now makes for an exciting and easy reading format. We publish three issues per year. Unfortunately only about 30% of the SASA members actually open the newsletter. In addition to our website, this is our main way of communicating with you. We urge you to open the newsletter and read the interesting articles next time it hits your email inbox.

The Statistics community lost two very special people during the year. In April, Emeritus Professor Tim Dunne died tragically in a car accident, and in August Professor Joanne Tyler passed always after a long illness. Both played significant roles in SASA and the Statistical community during their lifetimes and their presence will be missed both at this conference and during our future endeavours.

It remains for me to thank all the members of the executive committee for their input and efforts during what was a challenging year for all of us. A special thank you to our Gauteng team, Yoko, James, Inger, Leonard and Jaco, for making time to attend many meetings in order to eventually secure our funding for the year. I cannot believe that my impossible year of SASA president, while being head of a statistics department during a time of protests at our universities, amidst funding woes and being responsible for hosting the annual SASA conference is nearly over. I wish Danie Uys all the best of luck for his two-year term as SASA president.

Francesca Little (President 2015/2016)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The SASA Fellowship committee comprises of the last six available Past Presidents, i.e., James Allison, Yoko Chhana, Pravesh Debba, Gary Sharp, Roelof Coetzer and Paul Mostert. The committee received two nominations for Fellowship, however, after a round of voting, the committee decided to not award a Fellowship this year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The SASA Education Committee wishes is deeply saddened by the untimely death of Prof Timothy Dunne, much loved member of this committee. Sadly missed, forever remembered.

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 committee composition and portfolio allocation had a number of changes at the start of the year. The first change in composition was due to Hannah Gerber having resigned from the committee following the birth of her second baby (girl) on Christmas day 2015. However, she had mentored Karl Huang, who took over her previous portfolio flawlessly. The next change was that Warren Brettany (NMMU) resigned from the committee at the end of 2015, and was replaced by Chantelle Clohessy (NMMU), who will take over his portfolio on the committee, and finally, Ivona Contardo Berning (Stellenbosch) was on sabbatical leave in the USA in semester one, but resumed her position on the committee in semester two. Despite these changes, the committee has been extremely effective, with all members of the committee contributing to the successes achieved, under the following portfolios:

Name	Portfolio
Dunne, Tim (co-opted)	Paper competition for young statisticians to attend ISI events
Huang, Karl	Honours Projects Competition
Reyneke, Fransonet	Secretary, Post Graduate Paper Competition
North, Delia	Chairperson, Statistics Capacity Building, Education workshop
Clohessy, Chantelle	Second Year Competition, SASA newsletter
Fletcher, Lizelle	Third Year Competition, Website planning
Chhana, Yoko	Website co-ordination, co-ordinate activities of MOU's
Ivona Contardo Berning	University Teaching

Fransonet 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. Only two prizes were awarded this year as there was no entry in the area of Official Statistics. 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, then repeated for the ISI Conference held in Rio (2015). The SASA Education Committee were all set to run the competition, with prof Tim Dunne accepting the position of co-ordinator of the competition, but this competition unfortunately never materialized due to constraints related to advertisement through Stats SA channels and more significantly, the untimely death of Prof Tim Dunne. 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. Chantelle Clohessy handled all matters related to this competition. Winners were announced in January 2016 on the SASA website and in the newsletter. Chantelle was further responsible for the steady flow of information in the Education section of the SASA newsletter, as well as the website, and did a wonderful job. Thank you Chantelle, you sure delivered at a high level considering that this was your first year on the committee!

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 third time this year, with Lizelle Fletcher taking full responsibility for all aspects of the competition. Entries have recently been sent out for third year students of 2016 and the winners will be announced in January, 2017. 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 once again run this competition effortlessly and assists with planning information for the website, and generally helps out wherever needed, an invaluable member of our team! There were very serious constraints this year, all handled like an expert by Lizelle – thank you for your HUGE contribution in 2016 Lizelle!

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. Karl Huang was fully responsible for the running of this competition, which ran smoothly, despite Karl being new to this portfolio – thank you Karl!

Yoko 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.

So, all in all, the committee can report that 2016 has been a good year with many opportunities for advancement of Statistics education amongst the youth. It is with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to our much loved, long time committee

member, prof Tim Dunne, who taught us so much over the many years that he served as a member of the Education Committee.

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 2017 will be even more productive for our committee than 2016 was.

Delia North (Chairperson)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOUNG STATISTICIAN'S NETWORK

This year saw the formation of the young statisticians' network. The aims of this network is twofold; firstly, to create awareness of Statistics as a possible career path amongst school learners. Secondly, the network aims to look after young persons within the Statistics community.

The primary focus of the network this year was to create awareness of the possible study and career opportunities within Statistics. An initiative for creating awareness of Statistics as a profession, amongst teachers, was launched by the University of Pretoria. This initiative aims to inform Mathematics teachers at schools about the career opportunities for learners studying Statistics, in the hope that these teachers will encourage their learners to consider pursuing tertiary studies in this field. Several groups of learners were also addressed in talks explaining the application of Statistics in various industry sectors, and the growing demand for suitably qualified Statisticians in those industries. At the moment, this initiative is limited to the University of Pretoria, but it is our hope that other universities will agree to launch similar initiatives in the near future.

The Careers in Statistics brochure has been updated and will be made available upon request. This brochure can be used for marketing opportunities, such as open days at universities.

The Young Statisticians' competition is taking place at the annual conference in Cape Town. The turnout this year is record breaking; 26 young people are competing in the poster competition while the oral presentation part of the competition saw 44 entrants.

The past two issues of the SASA Newsletter each contained a segment on a specific young statistician; the committee aims to ensure that segments such as this become a regular feature in the Newsletter.

On a personal note, this is my first year as the Chairperson of the Young Statisticians' Network and I look forward to serving in this capacity. At the first executive committee meeting that I attended, I asked for an exact mandate and I was told that my role is to "get young people excited about Statistics". I aim to achieve this goal in the coming years.

Jaco Visagie (Chairperson)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS COMMITTEE

No report received.

Arul Naidoo (Chairperson)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ICCSSA BOARD

On 2 September 2016 ICCSSA held a joint breakfast seminar with ORSSA, UNISA and SASA. The talks were given by Dr Tobias Bischof-Niemz, Centre Manager for Energy at CSIR, on “New high-fidelity wind and solar PV data for South Africa enable renewables-based planning” and Dr Caston Sgauke, senior lecturer at the Statistics Department at the University of Venda on “Short term hourly load forecasting during the peak period using quantile regression with an application to the unit commitment problem”. The seminar was sponsored by ICCSSA and ORSSA and the venue was sponsored by UNISA. The mix between industry and academia created a lively and vibrant discussion.

This was followed by a second seminar on 28 October 2016 at SAS institute, jointly hosted by ICCSSA, ORSSA and SAS. The talks were given by Dr Vincent Micalli, currently the CEO of Stats4Buz (Pty) Ltd, on “A long walk from facts and figures to predictions in the electrical energy industry” and Dr Zaid Kimmie, currently responsible for Planning and Strategy at CSIR, on “Elections forecasts: the CSIR and the 2016 Local Government Elections”. The seminar was sponsored by SAS Institute.

Since SACNASP now includes Statistical Sciences as a separate field of practice, there are ongoing discussions to register ICCSSA members under SACNASP, for those ICCSSA members who view this appropriate. A challenge is that not all ICCSSA members are comfortable being called a professional scientist. There is also a need from industry that skills related to a statistician, for eg the design of questionnaire, surveys, data collection, data gathering, data capturing, also be considered within the statistical profession. This is the next phase that ICCSSA is undergoing but would need a mix of full time and part time staff in order to achieve this.

ICCSSA is also undergoing the development of CPD for its members. The breakfast seminars, attending and presenting at statistical conferences, belonging to statistical associations, participating in statistical workshops, attending statistical courses will all form part of the CPD programme. This is also necessary as a requirement of SAQA since 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. Recently,

ICCSSA received a clean audit from SAQA but were asked to have the CPD programme before the next audit is conducted.

Although ICCSSA is operating independently of SASA, there is a good working arrangement between the two organisations. There is representation from each organisation at the ICCSSA board or SASA EC meeting. There is also agreement that an MoU will be drafted and signed between the two organisations.

Pravesh Debba (Chairperson: ICCSSA Board)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MDAG COMMITTEE

Professor Sugnet Lubbe has been re-elected as the chairperson for MDAG for the 2015-2019 term.

The MDAG membership grew to 70 members in 2016. We are delighted to welcome the new members to our network of diverse specialties within the multivariate data analysis framework.

MDAG was represented at two international conferences in 2016: International conference on information complexity and statistical modelling in high dimensions with applications (IC-SMHD-2016) from 18-21 May 2016 in Nevşehir Turkey and the 22nd International conference on Computational Statistics (COMPSTAT) in Oviedo Spain, 23-26 August. One MDAG member also attended the 2016 CRoNos Summer Course on Functional Data Analysis (26-28 August).

As MDAG is an affiliated member of the International Federations of Classification Societies (IFCS) preliminary arrangements have been made for an invited speaker session that will be hosted by MDAG at the biennial IFCS conference in 2017 in Tokyo, Japan.

We are pleased to announce that the MDAG session that takes place at the annual SASA conferences has been extended to three streams this year. We extend a warm welcome to Professor Michael Greenacre from the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics to once again address us as the mini-plenary speaker of the MDAG special sessions.

Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel (Secretary)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Electronic newsletters were e-mailed to members in January, May and September 2016. They are also available on the website. Thank you to all members who contributed.

Mardi Jankowitz (Newsletter Editor)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships received from SAS, StatsSA and ICCSSA during 2016, have been used to support capacity building initiatives, and competitions for bursaries and scholarships. SASA is grateful for the continued support from our sponsors.

Yoko Chhana (Sponsorships)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Two issues appeared in 2016 (as per usual), with six papers and a review paper (including comments) in the first issue, and nine papers in the second issue. The review paper in the first issue was a comprehensive review of goodness-of-fit testing procedures employing the empirical characteristic function and was compiled by S. G. Meintanis, a past SASA conference invited overseas speaker. The discussion and rejoinder that followed this paper included comment papers from 6 different local and international experts in the field.

We are once again attempting to get the journal accredited with “Web of Science.” The process to obtain that accreditation began this year after the publication of the second issue.

I would like to once again thank the editor, Sarah Radloff, for her thoroughness, keen-eye, and professionalism in running the journal.

Leonard Santana (Managing Editor)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JOURNAL EDITOR

The Journal received 111 submissions during the period November 2015 to October 2016.

The current state of these submissions is:

Accepted for publication	18
Rejected	80
Under review	13
Total	111

The first issue of SASJ volume 50 in 2016 included an invited discussion paper by Professor Simos Meintanis with 5 comments and a rejoinder, and 6 papers. In the second issue 9 papers were published.

The editorial board consists of the following Associate Editors: Akim Adekpedjou, Tertius de Wet, Max Finkelstein, Carl Lombard, Samuel Manda, Professor Simos Meintanis, Noel Veraverbeke, Khangelani Zuma and Professor Joseph Ngatchou- Wandji 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 continued support during the year and in particular Professor James Allison for taking over as Editor while I was recovering from back surgery.

Sarah Radloff (Scientific Editor)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTERN CAPE CHAPTER

On 11 March our first chapter meeting of the year was held. Two invited speakers, Anestis Antoniadis (from Joseph Fourier University, France) and Irène Gijbels (from Catholic University Leuven, Belgium) delivered a talk entitled “Variable selection in high-dimensional exponential dispersion models”.

The second chapter meeting (the chapter’s annual meeting) will be held on 25 November. The speaker is Marie Hušková, from Charles University, Prague, who will speak on “Detection of instabilities in various models”. The meeting will also include the AGM, and an opportunity for members to socialise while enjoying some refreshments.

Tom Berning (Chairperson)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GAUTENG CHAPTER

Under the chapter activities for 2016, the following was organised:

- SASA GT Chapter organised a lecture and meet-and-greet on 25 April 2016 at the CSIR in Pretoria. The talk was delivered by Prof Jeffrey S Racine, who was on a research collaboration visit to Prof Sonali Das (CSIR). Prof Racine is Professor, Department of Economics, Professor, Graduate Program in Statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics as well as the Senator William McMaster Chair in Econometrics. His talk title was “Recent Developments in Nonparametric Estimation” and was well attended by SASA members from the University of Pretoria, UNISA and the ARC as well as SASA members within the CSIR. After the talk at the CSIR, Prof Racine spent

time with the attendees. The meeting ended with light refreshments for SASA GT members. SASA supported by covering the cost of the refreshments which amounted to R2304.75. Venue was free.

- Prof Racine also presented a talk at the CoE-MaSS lecture series at Wits on April 21, 2016. His talk title at the CoE-MaSS was “Direct nonparametric conditional quantiles estimation”, which was also attended by, among others, some SASA GT chapter members. He also interacted with number attendees before and after the talk at Wits. No cost was incurred on the SASA GT fund.



Sonali Das (Chairperson)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VAAL-NORTH-WEST CHAPTER

The Potchefstroom campus of the North-West University hosted a seminar by Prof Joseph Ngatchou Wandji, from the University of Lorraine, France. The seminar was held on 14 July 2016. The topic of his talk was "A locally asymptotically optimal test for ARCH models". 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.

Our next meeting will be held on 21 November 2016. One of the annual SASA conference guests - Prof Marie Husková - will be giving a scientific talk titled: "Detection of instabilities in various models". This meeting will be held at the Vaal campus of the North-West University and we are looking forward to hosting the chapter meeting for the first time at the Vaal campus. It is our intention to get more of the Vaal chapter members involved in meetings like this. Feedback will be given after the meeting.

WD Schutte (Chairperson)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FREE STATE CHAPTER

The Department of Mathematical Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of the Free State hosts about five 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 and abroad.

Highlights were a talk by Prof Jan Beirlant from K.U. Leuven België titled: "Extreme Value Analysis: a recollection and current research at KU Leuven and UFS", as well as four talks by Hollard Short term, covering:

- Various short term components
- Product Development, Valuations and Statutory obligations from an international point of view
- Short term product development, and pricing of it
- Why Affinity Business?
- Actuaries: master manipulators or champions of prudence?
- Uncle SAM - how we manage ongoing solvency of a life insurer referring to the new SAM regime.

Lastly, 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 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL CHAPTER

Due to students' unrest we did not have the usual activities. In fact, our big event was to host a group of American Statisticians, from American Statistical Association. This eagerly anticipated activity of UKZN and CAPRISA in September/October was cancelled due to university students' unrest. Otherwise, there were regular seminars and workshops at UKZN, DUT, CAPRISA and MRC.

Temesgen Zewotir (Chairperson)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTERN CAPE CHAPTER

The Eastern Cape Chapter hosted a workshop during 2016. Prof Niel le Roux from the University of Stellenbosch was invited to present a workshop to members of the Eastern Cape Chapter. He presented three talks at the workshop which was held at Rhodes University in October. The titles of the talks were: "Biplots for Quantitative Data"; "Biplots for Qualitative Data"; and "Biadditive Biplots and Fisher's Optimal Scoring Revisited". The workshop was attended by colleagues from NMMU and RU. Unfortunately colleagues from UFH and Walter Sisulu University were unable to attend. We are again indebted to SASA for financial assistance, without which this workshop would not have been possible.

Sarah Radloff (Chairperson)

November 2016

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIMPOPO CHAPTER

The SASA, Limpopo Chapter has actually not been active ever since the previous year to date. This is mainly due to the fact that, majority of the colleagues in our department are presently engaged to their studies. Consequently, it has not been possible for us to partake in any reportable activities. However, we are planning towards a successful 2017 in this regard.

Murendeni Nemukula (Chairperson)

November 2016

INITIATIVES FOR 2015/2016: INCOMING PRESIDENT

Following in the footsteps of Francesca Little as president of SASA is a rather daunting challenge. The incredible energy and passion that Francesca

showed during her term as SASA president, for both SASA and the broader statistics community of South Africa, is indeed admiring. I can only hope that my leadership of the SASA executive committee in 2017 and 2018 will exhibit the same clarity of vision.

During the next two years the SASA executive committee will make a notable effort to further develop relationships with the existing sponsors of SASA. It is important that the expectations of the sponsors are met to secure proper funding for all of SASA's activities, such as the annual conference and the SASA executive committee meetings. Making bursaries available for undergraduate and postgraduate studies in statistics is vital for the progress of the subject and to ensure that well-equipped statisticians graduate from tertiary education institutions in South Africa.

Special interest groups within SASA are essential platforms for interaction and collaboration of their members. The multivariate data analysis group (MDAG) and the biometry group (SUSAN-IBS) are already well-established. The SASA executive looks forward to seeing growth and development in the more recently formed data science, Bayesian and industrial research special interest groups. The possibility of affiliation of these groups with associated international organisations will also be pursued.

It is disappointing that statistic departments at previously disadvantaged tertiary institutions are still lacking behind in terms of qualified academic staff, their post graduate course offering, and research. One of the main priorities of the SASA executive committee will be an attempt to elevate these pressures on those departments. The precise means by which this will be achieved, is still unclear and will require a sound, practical strategy.

The editor, managing editor and associate editors of the South African Statistical Journal are delivering an excellent service at present. The journal is published timeously, containing theoretical and applied statistics articles of a high standard. It is desirable that the journal appears on the ISI publication list once again. This possibility will be investigated by the SASA executive.

SASA is currently enjoying good standing internationally. The annual conference, which includes a variety of relevant, practical workshops, attracts delegates from all over South Africa and the greater continent. The internationally invited speakers are not only respectable researchers but also renowned leaders in their respective fields. It is my sincere wish and ambition that the SASA executive committee will be able to preserve and improve the profile of SASA over the next two years.

Danie Uys (Incoming President 2016/2017)

November 2016

INTERIM 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES ON 2017 BUDGET

2016 Interim financial statements and report

All amounts in the interim financial report represent transactions to 21 November 2016 of all SASA bank accounts.

- Cheque account balance as on 21 November 2016: R222 516.24
- Spiral account balance as on 21 November 2016: R625 763.21

- Fixed term deposit investment as on 21 November 2016: R 70 235.73

Income

- The online Journal hosting at SABINET generated an income of R14 336 (excl. VAT).
- A total of 12 local libraries are subscribed to SASJ, and a total of 52 overseas libraries are subscribed to SASJ.
- A total of 69 new members joined SASA in 2016, 55 members did not renew their SASA membership for 2016 or were deleted from the list since they have not paid for 2015 and 2016. A total of 72 membership fees are outstanding for 2016 as on 21 November 2016. Total paid-up members 456 (including honorary members).

Expenses

- Estimated outstanding newsletter expenses, December/January issue: R3 000.
- SAS sponsored money still included in the current account as on 21 November 2016: Thought leader (R12 500), Young Statisticians award (R6 300), SAS graduate bursary (R24 000) need to be awarded in the 2016 financial year.
- The total amount in the 2015 budget for the SASA bursary and scholarship awards was R43 000. This was for the 2015 winners, announced early in 2016. This was also paid early in 2016.
- Some chapter claims are still outstanding.
- Bank fees also include costs on US dollar deposits for journal subscriptions.

2016 Interim Financial Statement (21 November 2016)										Paid in 2016		
INCOME				Budget	Actual	EXPENDITURE				Budget	Actual	Paid in 2016
												from 2015
												budget
Membership				103158	113258					50000	41515	
Ordinary (less VAT)	380	300	100000									
Affiliated (less VAT)	2	500	877							8000		
Senior (less VAT)	20	130	2281									
Newsletter				13000	7000							
Ads (sponsors)	4	1750	7000		7000							
Ads (Institutional) (less VAT)	3	2000	6000		0							
Journal				63660	77836							
Overseas US\$*	55	84	50820		62576							
Local (less VAT) ZAR	10	95.76	840		924							
SABINET	1		12000		14336							
SAS MoU items				71600	22600							
Young Statisticians project			6300		6300							
Thought leader			12500		12500							
Outreach to Schools			24000		0							
E-Materials project			25000		0							
Expert list: Maintenance & Website			3800		3800							
Visitors (1)				35000	35000							
From platinum sponsors			35000		35000							
Sponsored Competitions				66000	24000							
SAS Honours			24000		24000							
StatsSA post graduate			42000		0							
Bursary				37000	37000							
ICSSA			13000		13000							
SAS Postgraduate			24000		24000							
Website				2000	1000							
Website buttons	2	1000	2000		1000							
Interest				4000	4010							
Sponsors				98000	33000							
StatsSA		(66000)	65000		0							
Platinum (SAS)		(76000)	33000		33000							
				493418	354704					493418	357662	

Draft 2017 Budget

- The budget for 2017 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 2017 budget). Competition prizes and bursaries also form part of the budget.
- StatsSA contribution for conference exhibition, advertising, website button and Statistical capacity building initiatives undertaken by SASA: R69 000.
- The SAS platinum sponsor of R80 000 will be utilised as follows: R35 000 will be allocated towards the SASA official visitor's expenses, including subsistence; R7 500 will be regarded as newsletter advertisement costs in the three issues; R1 500 will be regarded as

website cost for advertisement button; The remainder, R36 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 R12 = US\$1 and a domestic library pays R114.91 (incl. VAT). The estimated income from online hosting of SASJ with SABINET is R14 000.

Membership fees 2017

Membership fees will remain the same as in 2016: Ordinary membership fee – R300 including VAT; Senior membership fee – R130 including VAT; Affiliated membership fee – R500 including VAT

Journal subscription fees 2017

After discount an overseas library will pay US\$84 and a local library will pay R114.91 (including VAT).

Lizanne Raubenheimer (Treasurer)

November 2016

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SASA's AGM booklet compiled by

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November 2016