Honours Project Competition Sponsored by SAS®

It is the SASA Education Committee’s pleasure to announce the winners of the 2014/2015 SASA Honours project competition.

We received eighteen honours projects from seven universities this year. Thank you to the Universities of Cape Town, Free State, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pretoria and Stellenbosch as well the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and Wits for their entries. Well done to for following entries:

HONOURS PROJECTS

First Prize
Ms Margaret de Villiers and Ms Dalene Bezuidenhout
Influence of Right-Censoring on Some Kernel-Smoothed Hazard Rates
(US) (R6600)

Second Prize
Mr Alex Lau
Techniques for Background Modelling in Images
(UP) (R4400)

Third Prize
Mr Izak Nel
Investigating Specification Tests for Short Rate Diffusion Models
(UCT) (R3300)

In fourth place there was Modelling Extreme Risk and Value-at Risk in Finance: An Application to the Negative Returns of the SA Mining Index, JSE Resource 10 Index and the US Mining Index by Ms Venelle Pather (UKZN).

The SASA Education Committee is grateful to the following judges for their time and effort: Dr Legesse Debusho (UP), Dr Carl Lombard (MRC), Dr Henri Moolman (WSU), Dr Shaun Ramroop (UKZN) and Dr Danie Venter (NMMU).

As always, the judges commented on the excellent quality of the projects. There was a good variety of topics as well as statistical techniques utilized. Raking the top projects was a difficult task, in particular due to the high standard, but also the number of projects that had to be adjudicated. We’d like to extend a special word of thanks to SAS for their continued support of this competition.

Congratulations to all the winners!

SASA 2nd Year Scholarship and Bursary Information

HoD’s and academics, please inform potential students about the SASA scholarship and bursaries.

Students (studying statistics) who will commence their third year studies at any South African university in January/February 2016 are eligible for the awards. Application forms are available on the SASA website. Potential students must complete the form in its entirety; any omissions and the forms are viewed as incomplete and hence not considered. The form must then be returned by the academic referee (not the applicant) to Mr WJ Brettenny, Department of Statistics, PO Box 77000, NMMU, Port Elizabeth, 6031. All applications must reach Mr Brettenny no later than 31 December 2015. Applications received thereafter will not be considered. A maximum of three awards will be made.

For additional information contact Mr WJ Brettenny (warren.brettenny@nmmu.ac.za).

Third Year Scholarship and Bursary Announcement

HoD’s and academics, please inform current third year students about the scholarship (based on merit) and bursaries (merit and need) sponsored by SASA, SAS and ICCSSA.

Students who are planning to enrol for an honours degree in statistics in 2016 at any South African university are eligible for the awards. Entries open in September and application forms will be available from the SASA website.

Completed forms must be submitted to Dr L Fletcher, Department of Statistics, Private Bag X20, Hatfield, 0028; electronic (scanned) applications are also accepted, please email to Lizelle.Fletcher@up.ac.za.

Part I of the form must reach Dr Fletcher no later than 30 December 2015. In the case of applying for a bursary, Part II of the form, to be completed by an academic referee, must be returned by the academic referee (not the applicant).