Editor’s Message: Let me begin by wishing all of our members a belated happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

This edition of the Newsletter includes the regular columns from the President of ISBIS as well as from the Contributing Editors. I am particularly happy to note that there is information about a good number of our members under “ISBIS Member News”. I also get regular calls for news from Editors of other newsletters for contribution from ISBIS members — ISI, ENBIS, etc. Please forward any such items as and when you have them.

I hope to receive more articles for future issues of the newsletter. These could include relevant activities related to business and industry in your region, news articles about yourself or others, etc. Please utilise this newsletter as a medium for circulating interesting information to the BIS community. You can send them to me via e-mail at balajicusat@yahoo.com.

With best regards, Balakrishna.

President’s Message: It is hard to believe that it has been more than three months since our last newsletter. Time seems to fly by when you get older — so many things to do and so little time ...

I’m pleased to report that we have more than 40 new members who joined ISBIS since January 1, 2012. Welcome to the ISBIS family. I hope you will become involved in ISBIS activities and also become engaged in promoting business and industrial statistics in your regions.

Let me update you on several activities related to ISBIS. Plans for ISBIS 2012 are going smoothly. Information on the program is provided later in the newsletter. I’d like to thank David Banks (Chair of the Scientific Program Committee), Supul Durongwatana, Anupap Somboonsavatdee, and Ananda Sen (Members of the Organizing Committee) for all their help with the conference. The newsletter also includes information on the joint conference of y-BIS and jSPE, the young statisticians of the Portuguese Statistical Society, in July 2012 in Portugal. I am grateful to Paulo Canas Rodrigues, VP for y-BIS, for initiating the conference and for all of his work in leading the organization. David Banks, VP of ISBIS, is also serving as our representative on the Scientific Program Committee for ISI World Statistics Congress in Hong Kong in 2013. He has assembled an excellent collection of proposed invited sessions from ISBIS. Final decisions on the invited sessions will be made soon. David is also leading the organization of an ISBIS satellite meeting, joint with the ISI Committee on Risk Analysis, before the ISI WSC in Hong Kong. See call for papers in the newsletter. An effort to redesign our logo is also on-going. You would have seen the call for submissions. This effort is being led by Ejaz Ahmed, ISBIS VP for Communications, along with a few others.

The ISBIS Council is very interested in hearing from members about proposals to organize local conferences, conduct workshops or other activities that would benefit people from their local regions and promote ISBIS. Please e-mail any one of us with your suggestions and interests. In the meantime, I join Bala in wishing you a belated happy and healthy 2012 (Year of the Dragon)

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Vijay (vn@umich.edu)
The y-BIS column

It is my great pleasure to announce that the first meeting of the y-BIS will be held at Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal, from July 23-26, 2012. This conference is for undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, assistant professors, and anyone studying Statistics or who is interested in learning more about the profession. A few of the confirmed keynote speakers include:

- N. Balakrishnan, Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada;
- João Cadete de Matos, Head, Department of Statistics at the Portuguese Central Bank, Portugal;
- Richard D. De Veaux, Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Williams College, Massachusetts,
- Agus Sudjianto, Director of Analytics and Modelling, Lloyds Banking Group, UK;
- Ronald Wasserstein, executive director, American Statistical Association, USA.

Visit the conference website (www.yBIS-jSPE.com) for full information and registration. Also, keep up to date with the latest conference information by visiting our Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Joint-Meeting-of-y-BIS-and-jSPE/167327083361765).

The y-BIS conference is sponsored jointly by the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics and the first meeting of jSPE (Section of Young Statisticians of the Portuguese Statistical Society). Two Special Issues of International Scientific Journals are planned for papers presented at the Joint Meeting of y-BIS and jSPE:

- RevStat--Statistical Journal (Impact Factor 2010: 0.733)
- Communications in Statistics - Simulation and Computation (Taylor & Francis, IF 2010: 0.343)

We are now receiving proposals for Invited Paper Sessions which will be 60 minutes long and include three speakers or two speakers and a discussant. These sessions must have a specific topic and/or be organized by a company, bank, university, scientific society, etc.

Registration and abstract submission is now open. You can register with early bird registration fees before May 31, 2012, and can submit your abstract by April 15, 2012. I hope to see many of you in Lisbon! The y-BIS Executive and Council Committees are also receiving proposals for local/national activities with interest for young statisticians. Please send us your ideas and proposals for these activities and we will be happy to discuss it with you.

To keep y-BIS growing within ISBIS and outside the Society we need all the possible help you can provide. I urge young scientists to join y-BIS. This is a new group, free for full time students and very cheap for recent PhDs, where young people can share their knowledge and their contribution is always welcome. Please spread this information across your young colleagues, students and others who may be interested in our group. Please find more information about y-BIS at our website http://sites.google.com/site/ybisisbis/, or mail me.

On my behalf and on behalf of the Executive Committee of y-BIS, I would like to wish you a 2012 full of personal and professional success.

Paulo Canas Rodrigues (paulocanas@gmail.com)
ISBIS Vice-President for y-BIS
Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry: Update

Since I wrote my latest column for the Newsletter, Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry, the official journal of ISBIS, has published a discussion paper by Pancras and Dey on “A comparison of generalized multinomial logit and latent class approaches to studying consumer heterogeneity with some extensions of the generalized multinomial logit model”, with discussion by Fong and Lenk. Another discussion paper is currently under review: “Real-time road traffic forecasting using regime-switching space-time models and adaptive lasso” by three IBM researchers (Kamarianakis, Shen and Wynter). As you can see, those papers strongly reflect the idea the Editorial Board has about ASMBI: papers should stem from real problems, propose innovative methods and contribute to solve the problems. We strongly encourage submissions along those lines!

ASMBI will be, as usual, deeply involved with the forthcoming ISBIS 2012 meeting. An ASMBI discussion session is organised (Yuh-Jye Lee will speak on some issues in cybersecurity) and a call for papers will be issued for another special issue to be published in 2014, just before ISBIS 2014. Last time we had quite a lot of submissions and the forthcoming special issue is really very interesting, since it will contain many papers written in the spirit I described earlier. I am looking forward to even better submissions this year!

For those of you attending ISBIS 2012, I hope I will have the chance to hear from you about your opinions on ASMBI.

Fabrizio Ruggeri
ASMBI Editor-in-Chief

Message from Wiley-Blackwell for ISBIS members

ISBIS members can get free access to all issues of Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry on Wiley Online Library. All that ISBIS members will need to do is log in on the Members Only tab of the ISBIS website and click on the link to ASMBI on Wiley Online Library (http://isbis.org/members.html) The link will send the required authentication details and members will then get access to all the journal content seamlessly. (Note: You need a password to log in to the Members Only page. If you don’t have a password, please e-mail Shawn Mankad at smankad@umich.edu.

Stephen Raywood
Journals Editor, Statistics and Mathematics
Wiley-Blackwell

You can now join ISI as a Regular Member

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) is the umbrella organization of ISBIS and has six other Associations as part of the ISI family. Starting with the ISI World Statistics Congress in 2013, the ISI has introduced a new category of regular membership that is open to any individual interested in the mission of the ISI. The category of elected membership is continued but it is for individuals who have made significant contributions to the statistics profession in one or more areas. The regular membership is better suited for those in their early careers. The ISI offers a reduced membership rate for members of the ISI Associations. We encourage ISBIS members, including y-BIS members to join the ISI and network with statisticians from different application areas from around the world. Please visit the ISI website http://www.isi-web.org/ for more information about the ISI and how to join.
ISBIS 2012, June 17-21, Bangkok, Thailand — update

As noted in the last newsletter, ISBIS 2012 will be held at the Shangri La Hotel in Bangkok. The technical sessions will be held from June 18 -20, with two half-day preconference workshops on June 17 and one post-conference workshop on June 21. An updated list of plenary and invited presentations is available on the website. Call for contributed presentations was sent out a few weeks ago, and there is still time to submit papers online (see http://www.isbis2012-thailand.org/). Registration is currently open — note that early bird registration ends on April 15.

Information on hotel accommodation is also available on the website. Make sure to reserve early to get your accommodation at Shangri La Hotel, the conference venue. We have negotiated very good rates at this 5-star hotel located right on the river. The rate includes taxes, breakfast, and internet access. There are also good hotels near by, and information is available on the conference website. Don’t forget the open reception on Monday evening and a dinner cruise including a cultural show on Tuesday evening. The cost of the dinner is subsidized by the local hosts.

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) has secured funding from the World Bank to support participants from developing countries to attend ISBIS 2012 and other ISBIS-sponsored conferences. [ISI also provides similar support for conferences sponsored by other ISI Associations.] We have received quite a few applications for travel support for ISBIS, and a committee is reviewing these applications currently. Decisions will be made soon. You must be an ISBIS member (or become one) to qualify for the travel award.

Young researchers attending ISBIS-2012 are eligible to participate in the “2012 Best y-BIS Paper Award ” competition. This award includes a US$1,000 cash prize. Again, you must be an ISBIS member or become one to qualify. The award is sponsored by the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the US National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS). It was launched at ISBIS 2010, and we are grateful to ASA and NISS for their continued support. See http://isbis.org/doc/y-BIS_award-ISBIS2012.pdf for more details.

We look forward to seeing you in Bangkok.

Vijay Nair, Supol Durongwatana, David Banks, Ananda Sen and Anupap Somboonsavatdee
The 12th annual meeting of ENBIS will take place at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics and aims to build on the success of previous annual conferences bringing together statistical practitioners in all branches of our profession. The conference offers plenty of opportunities to share ideas and learn about current best practices. **With this first call for papers, we would like to invite you to contribute to the success of the conference by giving either an oral or a poster presentation in one of the themed conference sessions. Poster presenters are expected to give a short oral overview as well as exhibiting their poster.**

Contributions can consist of review papers, state of the art advances in scientific research, overview and introductory papers, presentation of an area of expertise to the uninitiated, best practice communications or reviews of shared experiences of practitioners.

Confirmed pre-conference courses include a half-day session on 9th September entitled “To explain or to predict?” led by Galit Shmueli and Ron Kenett.

Session topics will include but are not limited to:

Design of experiments  
Measurement uncertainty  
Process modeling and control  
Reliability and safety  
Operational risk management  
Stochastic modeling  
Data mining and warehousing  
Statistical computing  
Statistics in the pharmaceutical industry  
Statistics in practice  
Quality improvement and Six Sigma  
Analytics  

People from industry and business, in particular, are invited to present their problems and current solutions. Participants are invited to submit an abstract (maximum 250 words) **before April 15, 2012.** To submit your abstract go to [www.enbis.org](http://www.enbis.org).

Notifications of the acceptance of submissions will be sent out **no later than May 15, 2012.** Early bird registration will be available up to June 1st 2012.

Shirley Coleman  
on behalf of the Program Committee of ENBIS-12  

More information about the conference is available on [www.enbis.org](http://www.enbis.org).
Conferences and Calls for Papers

**ISBIS Satellite meeting on Risk Analysis (before the 2013 ISI WSC in Hong Kong)**

In their December meeting, the ISI Executive Committee approved a satellite meeting to be held on August 24, 2013, in Hong Kong. This is the day before the start of the regular ISI conference in Hong Kong. The satellite meeting is jointly sponsored by ISBIS and the ISI Committee on Risk Analysis. Further details on the satellite meeting will soon be posted on the websites of these two sponsoring organizations.

**David Banks** (dbanks@stat.duke.edu)

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**10th International Conference on “Ordered Statistical Data and Its Applications” (OSDA 2012)**

Continuing the series of Conferences in India (2000), Poland (2002-04), Turkey (2005), Iran (2006), Jordan (2007), Germany (2008), Egypt (2010) the Department of Statistics and Operations Research of University of Murcia will host the 10th International Conference on “Ordered Statistical Data and Its Applications OSDA 2012”. The meeting will be held at the Faculty of Mathematics, Espinardo Campus, University of Murcia, Murcia, Spain, May 23\(^{rd}\) - 25\(^{th}\), 2012. The closing plenary conference will be held at the CIM assembly hall, at the Technical University of Cartagena. In the spirit of the previous conferences, OSDA 2012 will provide an international forum for presentation and discussion of new results on ordered statistical data as well as to review and consolidate existing literature. It will be dedicated to all aspects of ordered statistical data, including (but not exclusively on):

* Approximations
* Bounds
* Characterizations
* Distribution Theory and Probability Models
* Stochastic Orders
* Reliability Theory and Survival Analysis
* Censoring
* Statistical Inference
* Applications of Ordered Data
* Information and Entropies
* Nonparametric Methods
* Ranked Set Sampling
* Asymptotic Theory

On behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to invite you to submit abstracts in the topics listed above. Please forward this announcement to your colleagues who might be interested in attending the congress.

Please visit the congress website at [https://www.um.es/symposium/go/OSDA2012](https://www.um.es/symposium/go/OSDA2012) for registration in order to receive up-to-date information about the congress. If you have any question, please mail to osda2012@um.es or contact Félix Belzunce and Jorge Navarro

Department of Statistics and Operations Research

Faculty of Mathematics, Campus de Espinardo

30100 Espinardo (Murcia)

SPAIN
Calls for Papers (contd.)

Data Driven Models In Machine Learning
A special session at SSNPD2012, August 8-10, 2012
Kyoto, JAPAN (http://mmde.is.kit.ac.jp/SSNPD2012/)

This session is devoted to implementation of advanced data mining and machine learning methods, algorithms and technologies in real situations from business and industry with emphasis on data from finance, bank, insurance and customer relationship management. It will be held at the 13th International Conference on Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Networking and Parallel/Distributed Computing (SNPD 2012). The SNPD 2012 conference will bring together researchers, scientists, engineers, industry practitioners, and students to discuss, encourage and exchange new ideas, research results, and experiences on all aspects of computer and information science. The Special session will gather selected papers and will be limited for 5 or 6 talks from such papers. All planned papers for special session will be reviewed as the ones in the regular sessions. All accepted papers for special session will also be published by IEEE.

Topics for the special sessions include: Transfer Learning; Updating an Allocation Rule; Big and Social Networks Data in Machine Learning; Change Detection in Streaming Data; Anomaly detection; Ensemble Methods; Fuzzy Classifiers

SNPD 2012 Proceedings will be published by IEEE, and indexed by EI, INSPEC, DBLP and Thomson ISI. One outstanding paper of the session would be published in Springer SCI book.

Important dates: Paper proposal due, for the special session: March 21, 2012; Acceptance notification: April 27, 2012; Registration & camera-ready papers: May 10, 2012; Conference: August 8-10, 2012

For details Contact: fbeninel@ensai.fr or visit the above site.

Reports of Past Conferences

The Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, held a special workshop on Visual Analytics (http://www.isb.edu/VisualAnalytics/) intended for industry and academia on 17 December 2011. Around 60 people attended and the event was live-streamed to many others world-wide. The workshop was instructed by Prof Galit Shmueli, SRITNE Chaired Prof of Data Analytics at ISB, followed by a session of case-studies by Gramener. The event kicked-off the new Asia Analytics Lab, which brings together researchers and practitioners interested in business analytics in the Asian context. The Lab’s Facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/204406712976679/) invites those interested in joining the community.”

The Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology organized the 31st Annual Convention of Indian Society for Probability and Statistics and an International Conference on Statistics, Probability and Related Areas held during December 19-22, 2011. About 250 delegated participated in the conference. There was a special session of ISBIS organized by Nalini Ravishankar on Hierarchical Bayesian autoregressive models for large space time data with applications to ozone concentration modeling.
C.F. Jeff Wu from Georgia Tech was selected by the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) as the recipient of the 2011 COPSS Fisher Lecture Award. His Fisher Lecture was given in Miami Beach, Florida on August 3, 2011. The event was attended by over 1000 professionals from statistics-related fields.

John Brewster became President of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) in July 1, 2011. The SSC is home to over 1,000 statisticians spread out across the Canadian provinces and territories, and abroad. Currently Professor Brewster is Chair of the Department of Statistics at University of Manitoba in Canada.

Asaf Hajiyev of The Institute of Cybernetics of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and Baku State University, together with two of his Ph.D students got “Grand Prize” of the 5-th International conference “Management Science and Engineering Management” held at Macau in November 2011. He was also awarded “Honorary Professor” of Chengdu University, China, Sichuan Province in the year 2011.

Faisal Khamis [photo not available] of the Al Zaytoonah University of Jordan has been accredited as a Professional Statistician by the ASA accreditation program. Faisal is also recognized as an expert in the field of Population and Development in the League of Arab States. (http://www.poplas.org/en/experts/expert_details.asp?SISN=1319)

Andre’ I. Khuri has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The Fellows induction ceremony took place in Vancouver, Canada, on February 18, 2012.

Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi, President-elect of ISBIS, has been elected Dean of Faculty at the ESSEC Business School of Paris and Singapore with 96% of votes. It is quite unusual to have a statistician at leading a Business School (at least in Europe).

Ejaz Ahmed has been appointed Dean of Science at Brock University in Ontario, Canada. He took office on January 1, 2012. Professor Ahmed is a VP of ISBIS and serves in the Board of Directors of the Statistical Society of Canada. Most recently, Professor Ahmed chaired the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada.

Dennis K. J. Lin was presented the 2011 Don Owen Award by the American Statistical Association San Antonio Chapter on March 25, 2011 at the Conference of Texas Statisticians by the President of the Chapter, John Schoolfield. Dennis is a University Distinguished Professor at Pennsylvania State University, USA.
BOOKS BY ISBIS MEMBERS

*Encyclopedia of Statistics in Quality and Reliability* Editors-in-Chief: Fabrizio Ruggeri, Ron Kenett, and Frederick Faltin, published by Wiley. This is a four-volume publication that examines the widespread use of Statistics in Business and Industry including healthcare, semiconductors, software and service organisations. It is intended as a reference for statisticians, engineers, and quality professionals in industry, academia, and government. It has a practical orientation with a large selection of case studies.

*Operational Risk Management: A Practical Approach to Intelligent Data Analysis* with Ron Kenet and Yossi Raanan as Co-editors, published by Wiley. This book introduces modern Operational Risk Management and describes how various data sources of different types, both numeric and semantic sources such as text can be integrated and analyzed. Models and and methods for operational risks assessment and mitigation are gaining importance in financial institutions, healthcare organizations, industry, businesses and organisations in general. The book also demonstrates how Operational Risk Management is synergetic to other risk management activities such as Financial Risk Management and Safety Management.

*Modern Analysis of Customer Surveys: with Applications using R* co-authored by Ron Kenett and Silvia Salini, also published by Wiley. The book introduces customer satisfaction surveys, with focus on the classical problems of analysing them, which include; missing values, outliers, sampling techniques, integration of different data sources, as well as modern and non-standard tools. Each chapter describes, in detail, a different technique that is applied to the standard data set along with R scripts featuring on a supporting website. Most of the techniques featured in this book are applied to a standard set of data collected from 266 companies (customers) participating in the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey (ACSS) of a global company.

*A Career in Statistics: Beyond Numbers* by Gerry Hahn and Necip Doganaksoy, published by Wiley. This book helps readers decide whether a career in statistics is right for them, provides guidance on how to prepare for such a career, and shows how to succeed on the job. The 2008 book by these authors on The Role of Statistics in Business and Industry is the winner of the 2010 Technometrics Ziegel Prize for the best reviewed book. Gerry Hahn is Retired Manager of Applied Statistics and Necip Doganaksoy is a Principal Scientist at the GE Global Research Center in Niskayuna, NY.

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**Announcement of Faculty Opening**

The Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Business at Johannes Kepler University (JKU) Linz invites applications for a tenured position of a **Professor of Applied Statistics in the Social and Economic Sciences** to begin immediately. Applicants will be expected to represent and further develop the above mentioned subject area. Detailed requirements for this position are documented in a job profile. Applicants are required to have a post-doctorate (venia docendi) degree, or an equivalent. Further information can be found at [http://www.jku.at/content/e213/e63/e62/e14896/e151401](http://www.jku.at/content/e213/e63/e62/e14896/e151401) (an English version should be available soon).

Further information can be found at [http://www.jku.at/content/e213/e63/e62/e14896/e151401](http://www.jku.at/content/e213/e63/e62/e14896/e151401) (an English version should be available soon).
Statistics2013 — International Year of Statistics

We invite the participation of your organization in a partnership among societies and organizations around the globe to celebrate 2013 as the International Year of Statistics. See (http://www.statistics2013.org).

The purpose of this International Year of Statistics (Statistics2013) is to promote the importance of Statistics, through the combined energies of societies and organizations worldwide, to the broader scientific community, business and government data users, the media, policy makers, employers, students, and the general public.

The goals of Statistics2013 include:

increasing public awareness of the power and impact of Statistics on all aspects of society;

nurturing Statistics as a profession, especially among young people; and

promoting creativity and development in the sciences of Probability and Statistics

There are a wide variety of ways organizations might choose to recognize an international year of statistics: conferences, workshops, symposia, public service announcements, etc. Your organization does not need to come up with new activities or devote new resources, but could recast existing activities to emphasize goals of the organization and goals of the International Year of Statistics.

We hope many groups will place special emphasis on activities to engage students and potential students of statistics, helping them to become more aware of statistics as a key scientific discipline. Some organizations might consider special foci, such as a broad statistical literacy outreach or promoting the ways in which statistics advances science and improves the human condition.

The point of the previous paragraphs is simply to stimulate thinking about possibilities, not to limit it in any way. To get started, please email us (ron@amstat.org) the name and contact information of the individual who will serve as the liaison between your Organization and the Statistics2013 Steering Committee. The liaison will help the Steering Committee know what kinds of activities you might be considering for 2013, and the Steering Committee will keep your liaison informed of activities being planned elsewhere across the globe.

The International Year of Statistics was declared by five societies working in close partnership: the International Statistical Institute, the International Biometric Society, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Royal Statistical Society, and the American Statistical Association. We look forward to working with your organization, and the many others who are joining to make Statistics2013 successful.

Thank you.

The International Year of Statistics Steering Committee

Richard Emsley, University of Manchester, IBS
Adam Jakubowski, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Bernoulli Society/ISI
Denise Lievesley, Kings College London, RSS
David Madigan, Columbia University, IMS
Vijay Nair, University of Michigan, ISI
Sastry Pantula, North Carolina State University, ASA
Ada van Krimpen, Director, International Statistical Institute
Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director, American Statistical Association