



International Year of Statistics News

August 26, 2013

ENBIS Names Greenfield Challenge Awardees

Earlier this year we told you about Statistics2013 participant [European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics's \(ENBIS\)](#) Greenfield Challenge Award.

ENBIS recently announced this year's honorees, who will receive the award at [ENBIS-13, the organization's 13th annual meeting to be held in Ankara, Turkey next month](#).

The prestigious honor was established after Box Medal honoree Tony Greenfield challenged ENBIS members in his 2009 acceptance speech:

"My challenge to you is that you will tell some audience about work you have done, and completed successfully because you used a statistical method. But that audience must be of people who are not statisticians. And you will have spoken to those people through publications that are for the wider public, through magazines or newspapers, or from a public platform. You might even write a short story or a play.

"That is my challenge: Tell the world, outside your circle, of work you have done, and done successfully because you used statistics."

The following year, [with the support of Wiley](#), ENBIS picked up the challenge issued by launching the [Greenfield Challenge](#) as an ongoing organizational activity.

This year, Wiley will provide the awards and the travel costs of the winner will be jointly covered by the [American Statistical Association](#) and ENBIS in celebration of the International Year of Statistics (Statistics2013).

The Greenfield Challenge Committee selected four award honorees. They are:

- The submission of 2013 Greenfield Challenge first-place honorees **Michael Lutz, Espéran Padonou** and **Olivier Roustant** is a demonstration to non-statisticians outside their circle that the work they have done could not have been accomplished without statistics.
- The efforts of **Dammika Lakmal Walpitage and her team**, who were awarded second place, are directed to the general public. Their play (one of a series) demonstrates the importance of statistics in a playful yet thoughtful way.
- The third-place prize is shared by **Ian Morton** and **Nicola Petty**. Morton uses relevant examples to demonstrate what statistics means to him personally. Nicola created a web resource for

statistics educators with numerous unusual examples. Both contributions are original and oriented toward teaching and explaining, rather than using statistics. Nonetheless, each project is so exciting that each is publicly recognized.

Statistics2013 passes on its congratulations to each of the Greenfield Challenge honorees!

World Statistics Congress Spotlights Statistics2013!

The 59th International Statistical Institute (ISI) World Statistics Congress (WSC) is underway in Hong Kong and the International Year of Statistics is being prominently featured at this international event. Statistics2013 sends its best wishes for a successful meeting to ISI and to all attendees who made the trek to Hong Kong. You can participate in the WSC via live webcasts of the Opening Ceremony and 10 select scientific sessions. These live webcasts will be offered from August 25 to 30. Also, archived versions of the webcasts will be available after the live webcasts (normally within 24 hours) for on-demand viewing for one year. [Click here for more information about the webcast agenda and to access the webcasts.](#)

Nominate a Statistician of the Week

Do you know an outstanding statistician deserving of recognition for his or her work? If so, nominate the person for the Statistics2013 Statistician Job of the Week. To do so, simply send us a 250-to-300-word article about your colleague along with a photograph of the person. In the article, explain the person's job as well as his or her contributions to the overall mission of their organization. We'll feature the profile on the Statistics2013 website homepage for a week. Send your nominating submission to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Attention All Participating Organizations

If you would like to share news about your organization's activities to celebrate Statistics2013 with other participants, we invite you to provide a blog entry or article that we will highlight on the Statistics2013 website. Many Statistics2013 organizations have done so already and your group could be the latest to be featured in the [Statistics2013 Blog](#) on the homepage or on the [Around the World in Statistics](#) page. To submit your article or blog, follow these guidelines:

1. *Statistics2013 Blog*—A blog entry up to 500 words. Since the Statistics2013 website is oriented to the public, all blog entries must be written in layman's language (no statistical terminology) and tie into the International Year of Statistics in some fashion (be creative!). Submit all blog entries via email to Jeffrey@amstat.org and include as attachments to the email any images and graphics, including the author's headshot photo, to be used in the blog entry.
2. *Around the World in Statistics Article*—A 250-to-500-word article about how statistics makes life better for the people of your country or about an initiative your organization is undertaking to promote statistical awareness to your constituency or audiences.

Submit your blog or article to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

2013 Will Come to an End (Eventually), But Statistics Rides On!

Now that we are into the second half of the International Year of Statistics, most of you likely already are planning activities for 2014. If so, please send us information about the events so we can post these to the [Statistics2013 Activities Calendar](#). Scroll to page 9 to learn how to submit your event info.

Participation is Oh So Close to 2,100!

This is just how close we are to the next participation milestone for the International Year of Statistics: 2,100 participants. Okay, so this is a newsletter and you cannot see how closely I'm holding my fingers. But if you could, you would see that my thumb and index finger are practically touching, yet a sliver of light shines between them. That's because as of today, there are 2,096 participants in Statistics2013, leaving us just four short of the latest milestone. The country count stays steady at 124. To check out the current participant and country lists, go to the [Statistics2013 website](#).

You can help us recruit new participants by encouraging other organizations, secondary schools, universities and businesses in your area to join this worldwide celebration. It's easy for them to join. Simply tell representatives of these groups to go to www.statistics2013.org and click on the "Join Statistics2013" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official International Year of Statistics participating organization.

Participating Organization: News & Events

Following is the latest news about upcoming and recently concluded events hosted by Statistics2013 participating organizations:

Portugal—Statistical figures are not merely numbers. They talk about society, about us. Knowledge is freedom's ally and statistics help us to overcome ignorance. In this context, the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation, a Statistics2013 participating organization, has developed two websites internationally recognized as innovative: www.pordata.pt and www.conheceracrise.pt. With this sharing of official statistical data, knowledge about numerous areas of society becomes closer to all citizens by being just a few clicks away.

International—One of the ways the [International Association of Official Statistics](#) (IAOS) journal is helping to celebrate the International Year of Statistics is to devote an [entire special interview issue](#) on several leaders in the statistical profession. The [Statistical Journal of the IAOS](#) showcases eight top leaders—four women and four men—from six different countries: United Kingdom, Canada, China, Haiti, South Africa and the United States. These leaders are (each name is hyperlinked to their online interview):

- [Ivan Fellegi, Statistics Canada, Canada](#)
- [Jill Montaquila, Westat, United States](#)
- [Denise Lievesley, King's College, United Kingdom](#)
- [David Hemson, DTS, South Africa](#)

- [Christy Chuang-Stein, Pfizer, China](#)
- [Arthur Kennickell, Federal Reserve Board, United States](#)
- [Jean Orelie, SciMetrika, Haiti](#)
- [Mary Batchter, Ernest and Young, United States](#)

This special issue is available to all statisticians even if they are not IAOS members. So, please widely share the following link: iospress.metapress.com/content/sjiaos. For information about subscribing to the *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, visit [the journal's website](#).

United States—Dan Jeske, the chair of the Department of Statistics at the University of California, Riverside, recently wrote to us to share the news that his department had created and hung two Statistics2013 banners at opposite ends of a busy walkway on the campus. “I’m so delighted to finally be able to share the physical evidence of the local enthusiasm at the University of California, Riverside for the International Year of Statistics. It’s no easy task to get a Department-inspired banner hung on the UCR campus. But the IYS is no ordinary event,” Jeske explained in his message. The attractive banners, decorating a busy campus corridor, will catch the attention of numerous UCR students, faculty and guests for the remainder of the year. Jeske also singled out the Statistics Department’s office executive, Ms. Paula Lemire, for coordinating a team to work through the logistical challenges of hanging the banners that might have otherwise thwarted this prideful activity.



Two Statistics2013 banners grace the campus at the University of California, Riverside.

Iran—The Specialized Committees of the Planning Council of National Headquarters has been created to coordinate International Year of Statistics activities in the country. This collaborative group consists of representatives from the Statistical Center of Iran, Iranian Statistical Society, Statistical Research and Training Center, and several other agencies and organizations. Following are several of the main activities of this cooperative group:

- Forming eight specialized committees and coordinating their activities

- Holding the first meeting of the Specialized Committees of the Planning Council of National Headquarters for celebrating the International Year of Statistics
- Conducting a media interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency by the head of the Statistical Centre of Iran to publicize the International Year of Statistics in the country
- Holding motto and blog-writing competitions
- Disseminating information to institutes and government agencies to request funds for activities to celebrate the International Year of Statistics
- Planning congresses and seminars on various statistical subjects
- Publishing throughout the year a monthly newsletter specific to the International Year of Statistics
- Developing and launching [a local International Year of Statistics website](#)
- Requesting that researchers and statisticians collaborate in selecting the motto for the International Year of Statistics
- Holding training workshops in academic centres

To view all the activities conducted by the national headquarters, [go to the website of the International Year of Statistics in Iran.](#)



Iran's organization committee plans activities to celebrate the International Year of Statistics.

Portugal—PORDATA and the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation's aim of bringing information closer to every citizen became reality recently with the launching of the translated e-book, *Portrait of Portugal in Europe*. Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation is a Statistics2013 participating organization. More than 60 indicators on multiple themes about society invite the reader to participate in the discussion of societal issues using informed facts. You can access [Portuguese](#) and [English](#) versions of *Portrait of Portugal in Europe*. With this e-book also comes an invitation to visit www.pordata.pt, a free-access database with thousands of figures for Portugal and Europe. This website's innovation was recognized by the United Nation's 2011 World Summit Awards. The group also [has produced a video in](#)

[Portuguese](#) showing the importance of statistical data and the understanding of statistical figures for the growth of knowledge about society.

Malaysia—The [1st International Conference on Information, Operations Management and Statistics \(ICIOMS 2013\)](#) will be held next week, September 1-3, in Kuala Lumpur. The conference aims to provide a forum for academics, researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas and recent developments in the fields of information technology, operations management and statistics. The conference also is expected to foster networking among the participants in these core areas and related applications. It will be presented by the MS/OR Society Malaysia and Al Yamamah University, located in Kuala Lumpur, in honor of the International Year of Statistics.

Australia—Statistics and pizza—there’s no better combination, especially considering that pizza is a staple of nourishment on most college campuses! Recently, the University of Queensland’s (UQ) School of Agriculture & Food Science hosted a pizza luncheon to celebrate the International Year of Statistics. Forty graduate students and several staff enjoyed pizza on the lawn fronting the School of Agriculture & Food Sciences. The group also launched part of a UQ-funded “Teaching and Learning” project coordinated by Dr. Miranda Mortlock. This project will assist in developing materials for an undergraduate biometry class. Potential participants for this project networked and discussed initial ideas.



University of Queensland students and staff celebrate Statistics2013 with pizza!

Canada—The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby will be staging a “Statistics and Actuarial Science Fall 2013 Special Seminar Series” this fall. The series starts September 20 with a presentation titled “Modeling Discretization Uncertainty in the Solution of Differential Equations” by [Oksana Chkrebtii](#), a Simon Fraser doctoral student. It concludes November 29. Speakers are top statisticians in Canada. [You can learn more about the series by clicking here.](#)

United States— Nine representatives of colleges and universities in Oregon, calling their group IYoS13—Oregon, is [hosting a public lecture showcasing Dr. Tim Hesterberg of Google on October 12 at Portland State University in Portland](#). This special event will mark the 300th anniversary of Jacob Bernoulli's Ars Conjectandi and the 250th anniversary of Bayes' Theorem. As cornerstones of modern probability and statistics, the anniversaries of each publication spawned the International Year of Statistics (Statistics2013) by societies around the world. IYoS13—Oregon is a collaborative effort of nine Oregon faculty members specializing in probability and statistics from the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Oregon Health Sciences University, Willamette University, Reed College, and Lewis & Clark College. Its goal is to engage students and professionals in Oregon.

Sri Lanka—A seminar titled, "Computation of Sample Size in a Statistical Study", organized by the Institute of Applied Statistics, Sri Lanka, was held August 5 as part of Statistics2013. The seminar emphasized the computation of sample size in different scenarios in a statistical study. The seminar was well attended by representatives from the state and private sectors who are involved in statistical work. The seminar organizers were Mr. Wimal Nanayakara, former director general of the Sri Lanka Department of Census and Statistics, and Prof. S. Samita of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.



Professor Samita makes his presentation to seminar participants.

United Kingdom—In celebration of the International Year of Statistics and the Centenary Year of the Medical Research Council (MRC), the MRC Biostatistics Unit and Cambridge University's Statistical Laboratory cohosted a Celebration Series of Public Lectures throughout April to June. The lecture series culminated June 20 with a summer reception. Also that day, MRC Biostatistics Unit held an "Open Day" when members of the public attended any of four "Cafés Scientifiques" talks. Attendees also enjoyed a historical display about the MRC Biostatistics Unit's Directors and Discoveries, which highlighted the issues—statistical and medical—that had predominated across a century of the unit's work. These events were well-attended, reaching a total public audience of approximately 800 people. Numerous attendees offered their thoughts on the events, including these endorsing comments:

- “Simply brilliant! Have enjoyed listening to the relaxed talks and reading the enormous achievements of the MRC-BSU scientists over 100 years. Keep up the good work in engaging scientific thoughts and solutions.”
- “Really excellent talks, speakers. Great opportunity. Thank you.”
- “Fascinating talks. Life is risky!”

Statistics2013 offers a hearty “job well done” to the MRC Biostatistics Unit and Cambridge University’s Statistical Laboratory!

Brazil—As part of its continuing celebrations of the International Year of Statistics, the Federal University of Juiz de Fora Department of Statistics promoted a short course of 15 hours—divided over five days—for members of the local academic community. Titled “Geometric Visualization of Data”, the special course shared information with attendees about geometric analysis of data methodologies using the R language. The course succeeded in meeting its objective. Twenty people, from different areas and levels of knowledge, participated in the short course. The students were a post doctorate in mathematics; a PhD in social sciences and psychology; a master’s in public health; and in ecology and physics; and undergraduates in biology, statistics, public administration, logistics, medicine, accountability and administration. Additionally, the course was attended by a statistician from the Brazilian Enterprise of Agricultural Research.



“Geometric Visualization of Data” attendees listen raptly during the seminar.

Calling All National Statistical Organizations

Statistics2013 is seeking informative, educational and insightful statistics about your country to feature in the “Statistic of the Day” area of the [Statistics2013 website homepage](#). These can be a series of four or five brief statistical facts about your country’s population, economy and education systems; the health of its citizens; and similar social, economic, government and other relevant topics. Send your submissions along with a link to your organization’s website to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop Info on Website

Organizers are hard at work on preparations for the Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop, the capstone event of the International Year of Statistics, that will be held November 11 and 12 in London, United Kingdom. The workshop will bring together statisticians from around the world, scientists who collaborate with statisticians, science writers and representatives from funding agencies.

[We have created several new pages about the workshop on the Statistics2013 website.](#) You also can access these pages in the “Statistics2013 Global Supporters” area of the website.

The event will showcase the breadth and importance of statistics and highlight the extraordinary opportunities for statistical research in the coming decade. More specifically, the workshop will tell an important story to a number of audiences:

- To scientists in data rich fields: statisticians are ready, willing and able to engage in deep, long-term collaborations;
- To funding agencies: statistics is *the* data science and can (and does) provide tools to enable progress across a huge range of human endeavors;
- To statisticians: don't let the opportunities for high-impact research pass you by; and
- To future statisticians: engage with a discipline with a huge future.

Participation is by invitation only and will involve approximately 100 people. In addition to statisticians, the workshop will involve representatives from other areas of science and practice that involve problems of a statistical nature. The workshop will be organized around presentations and panels.

However, all will be able to view the workshop live as well as recordings of the proceedings via the web thanks to [Wiley Publishers](#).

After the workshop, with input from participants, the organizing committee will publish a summary document that will be widely distributed to the larger scientific community.

Event Submission Forms on Website

Two web-based forms make it easy for you to submit your organization's Statistics2013 events as well as a summary and photos after the event is over.

The first form—called the “Event Submission Form for the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar”—provides you a quick and simple way to submit information about your organization's planned Statistics2013 events. All you have to do is input into the form the requested information and press the “Submit” button. We'll then take your information and post it to the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar. [You can access this form here.](#)

The second form—titled “Statistics2013 Post-Event Information & Photo Submission Form”—enables you to let us know about the success of your completed event and to submit up to two photos. On this form, you are prompted for information about your event and you also can input a brief summary (up to

1,750 characters). After you submit information about your organization's event, we'll run your photos and stories in this newsletter so others can see the creative and fun ways that your organization is promoting the International Year of Statistics. [Click here to access this form.](#)

Check out Website for Activities & Ideas

On an almost daily basis, we are adding new items to the [Activities Calendar](#) on the [Statistics2013](#) website. This list is an excellent place for finding activities in which you and your organization can participate to celebrate Statistics2013. It also is a great place to see what other organizations around the world are doing to mark the celebration and use those ideas as the starting point for your group to brainstorm ideas of its own. Check out the Activities Calendar today and start planning your organization's event!

The [Statistics2013 website](#) is filled with information and resources—particularly the [posters](#) and the [downloadable flyer](#)—to educate the public about how statistics improves their lives, the work of statisticians as well as careers in the statistical sciences. We invite and encourage all International Year of Statistics participating organizations to make use of these resources, including these helpful resource areas:

- *What is Statistics?*—An explanation in layman's language
- *Statistics2013 Video*—The informative two-and-a-half-minute video: [Why Statistics is Important to You](#)
- *Statistics as a Career*—Information about the work of statisticians and careers in statistics
- *Teacher Resources*—Primary and secondary school resources, a downloadable flyer and posters

There also is a section dedicated to participating organizations, titled "Statistics2013 Global Supporters", where you can access the roster of participating organizations, a comprehensive list of Statistics2013 activities, and the official Statistics2013 logos in various languages.

Use the Statistics2013 Video

We encourage your organization and its members to use and share the International Year of Statistics video. Created by [SAS Institute](#), the video relates the many and varied ways that statistics impacts our lives. The video is accessible at www.statistics2013.org.

You can:

- view the video
- post the video to your organization's website
- e-mail the link to your members/employees
- share it with your organization's stakeholders
- promote it to the public, media and other external audiences in your area or country
- show it at your meetings and other events

The video narration is in English. However, thanks to SAS and many Statistics2013 participants who are providing translations, subtitles are being added in other languages. Currently available languages are:

- Catalan
- Czech
- Dutch
- Euskara (Basque)
- English
- French
- German
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Portuguese (Portugal)
- Russian
- Spanish (Mexico)
- Swedish
- Turkish

To access these subtitles, follow these easy instructions:

- Press “Play” on the video
- Click the “CC” button to see the list of subtitle options
- Click on the desired language (the subtitles will appear onscreen)

We will be adding other subtitled languages soon, so check the video frequently to see if your language is available.

If you want the video subtitled in your country’s language, please e-mail Jeffrey@amstat.org to request a copy of the script that you can translate.

Get the Official Statistics2013 Logo

With the move to the new public website, the link to the Statistics2013 logo and the various language-specific versions has changed. That new direct link is:

<http://www.statistics2013.org/iyos/logos.cfm>

Be sure to save the link in your web favorites.

You also can access the logos page by going to the “[Statistics2013 Global Supporters](#)” area of www.statistics2013.org and then clicking on “[Resources](#)” in the pull-down menu. The link to the logos is listed first on the page.

Language-Specific Logos Available

The Statistics2013 logo is available in [37 languages](#) and we are ready create new ones for you. To have a version of the logo created in your language, please e-mail the following to Jeffrey@amstat.org:

- The interpretation of the phrase “International Year of Statistics” in the appropriate font in this format: International Year of Statistics=“The interpreted phrase”
- The interpretation of the phrase “Participating Organization” in the appropriate font in this format: Participating Organization=“The interpreted phrase”

- A high-resolution PDF document or a tif file of the interpretations of the phrases “International Year of Statistics” and “Participating Organization”. (This file will be used to compare against the font to ensure it was transmitted properly. If it doesn't compare accurately, we will use the image of the interpretations from the PDF or tif in the logo instead. This step will ensure accuracy of your logo.)

Once your language-specific logo is created, it will be posted to the Statistics2013 website [here](#) and we will send you an email to let you know the logo is available for download.

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Get the latest International Year of Statistics news and updates by following us on Twitter at @Statistics2013. Also, when you use Twitter to spread the word about Statistics2013, be sure to use the hashtag “#STATS2013”. You also can become a “friend” of Statistics2013 on our [Facebook](#) page.