

The official newsletter of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis.

Newsletter Editor:

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Business Address:

The ISBA NEWSLETTER
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ISBA is a Scientific Society encouraging the interface between Bayesian Statistic methods and all other areas of science and policy-making.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I would like to open this edition of the Newsletter with two important messages. First, this edition contains a proposal for an ISBA Constitution to be ratified by the membership, along with a ballot to vote on this issue and on a new slate of officers. Please fill out and return your ballot according to the enclosed instructions. Note that you must be a member of ISBA to vote. If you have not paid 1996 dues yet, please do so now using the form enclosed and then go ahead and vote, too.

Second, I am nearing the end of my term as Newsletter Editor and it is time to begin the search for a replacement. I would like to invite all interested applicants to contact me using the addresses above (regular or electronic mail). Nominations and applications will remain open through the end of April and the new editor will be chosen by a committee of ISBA officers.

Editing the Newsletter has been a great experience for me and I encourage members interested in interacting with other Bayesians worldwide to apply. ISBA pays all expenses of the Newsletter process (printing, mailing, and even secretarial support), so no financial burden is placed on the host organization. It is anticipated

that the new editor will make a two-year commitment to minimize transition costs. I look forward to hearing from many motivated and excited Bayesians.

I would like to mention two other items:

Lady Bertha Jeffreys is being awarded an honorary doctorate by the Open University (United Kingdom) as a result of her research, writings, and teaching in mathematics. She co-authored *Mathematical Methods of Physics* (with her husband Sir Harold Jeffreys) which is an established classic in its field. In conjunction with this award, Lady Jeffreys has accepted an honorary membership in ISBA. We all welcome her to our group and congratulate her on her latest degree.

ISBA has agreed to co-sponsor the National Seminar on Bayesian Statistics and its Applications, to be held at Banaras Hindu University, India, from April 6-8, 1996. For more details contact Dr. S. K. Upadhyay by fax at (0542) 312059. A report of the conference will appear in a later newsletter edition.

JHD

CONFERENCES

The Fifth South Taiwan Statistics Conference and The First Two Sides of Straights Statistics Conference, July 15-16, 1996, National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan 80424. There are around 30 scholars from mainland China who will attend the conference.

Chicago Regional Meeting of ISBA, Fri.-Sat., Aug. 2-3, 1996: Those interested in proposing a session or paper for this meeting, please send a title and abstract to John Geweke, Program Committee Chair, by May 15, 1996. Dept. of Econ., Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Fax: 612-624-0209, email: geweke@bayes.econ.umn.edu. For further information, see the registration form in this issue.

ISBA96: Fourth World Meeting of ISBA: ISBA96: The Fourth World Meeting of International Society for Bayesian Analysis will be held in Cape Town, South Africa over the period 17-21 December 1996, on the main campus of the University of Cape Town (UCT).

An Educational and Research Workshop on Bayesian Analysis (ERWBA) will precede ISBA96 on the same site over 15-16 December 1996. The workshop is intended to introduce users of statistical models and graduate students to Bayesian analysis, and to discuss the teaching of Bayesian statistics. Sponsorship is being sought to bring at least 12 faculty and graduate student statisticians from African countries other than South Africa to the meetings.

Full information on the meetings, social activities, and vacation options is available at the following addresses:
World Wide Web:

<http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/mathsisba96/isba96.html>

anonymous ftp: <ftp://ftp.uct.ac.za/depts/mathsisba96/isba96.info>

Printed versions of the same information may be requested from:

e-mail: isba96@uct.ac.za,
fax: international+27-21-6503726 Attention: Tim Dunne

Interested persons should preferably register by www, or by e-mail. Where that is not possible please use fax rather than mail.

The Program Committee consists of Daan de Waal (RSA), Herman van Dyk (Netherlands), Jack Lee (Taiwan), S James Press (USA), Seymour Geisser (USA), John Geweke (USA), Arkady Shemaykin (Russia), Piet Groenewald (RSA). e-mail: wwdw@wvg3.uovs.ac.za

Cape Town is a city of great beauty and scenic splendour. ISBA96 is an opportunity for an escape from the Northern Winter into the glories of summer on the majestic slopes of the Table Mountain range. UCT must rank among the most beautiful university campuses in the world.

Be warned that Cape Town is a very popular tourist destination in December-January. Booking of flights and accommodation should be done as early as possible.

Deadlines: Titles: 30 June 1996; Registration: 31 August 1996;
Accommodation: 31 August 1996; Abstracts: 31 August 1996

The Multiple Criteria Decision Making Conference MCDM97 will take place at the same site in early January 1997. Various options for staying over the Christmas period and attending MCDM97 are available for interested persons.

*International Society for Bayesian Analysis
Regional Meeting
2-3 August 1996*

*University of Chicago
Graduate School of Business
Gleacher Center
450 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr.
Chicago, Illinois*

Registration and Local Arrangements

Location:

The Gleacher Center, formerly the University of Chicago Downtown Center, is located on the north bank of the Chicago River between the Michigan Avenue and Columbus Drive bridges. It's easily visible from both these bridges and it's an easy walk from the Hyatt Regency, the Fairmont and the Swissotel. The Executive Plaza is about four blocks away and the Days Inn on Lake Shore Drive is about six blocks away. International House at the University of Chicago main campus is about 30 minutes by public transit plus a four block walk.

Accommodation:

If you are attending the Joint Statistical Meeting, 4-8 August, you can use the same hotel for the ISBA meeting; just register to arrive two days earlier. To obtain JSM registration forms e-mail meetings@amstat.org or fax (703) 684 8069. Those not attending the JSM meeting can still use these same hotels. Full details are published in the Amstat News of February 1996 and on <http://www.amstat.org>. Hotel addresses, phone numbers and rates are:

Hyatt Regency Chicago -- 151 E. Wacker Dr., (800) 233 1234; Single \$102, Double \$121

Fairmont Hotel -- 200 N. Columbus Dr., (800) 527 4727; Single \$107, Double \$126

Swissotel Chicago -- 323 E. Wacker Dr., (312) 565 0565; Single \$104, Double \$121

Executive Plaza -- 71 E. Wacker Dr., (800) 612 4005; Single \$90, Double \$100

Days Inn Lake Shore Dr. -- 644 N. Lake Shore Dr., (312) 943 9200; Single \$84, Double \$84

International House University of Chicago -- 1414 E. 59 St., (312) 753 2280; Single only \$35

Travel:

If you are attending the JSM meeting you can use the same travel arrangement for the ISBA meeting. If you are not attending the JSM meeting you can still use these same travel arrangements. See the Amstat News of February 1996 for details. The Chicago Transit Authority runs trains from O'Hare (Blue Line) and Midway (Orange Line) airports to the downtown area. Both the Amtrak and Greyhound stations are within two miles of the Gleacher Center. We will try to send maps to all registrants.

Local Arrangements Committee:

Robin Carter is chair of the local arrangements committee. You can contact him at the address below, by e-mail at frcarter@gsbux1.uchicago.edu or by fax at (312) 702 0458. ***ISBA Regional Meeting Registration***

Please complete this form send it together with payment to:

Prof. R. A. L. Carter, ISBA Local Arrangements
University of Chicago
Graduate School of Business
1101 E. 58 St.
Chicago IL 60637

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Postal Address: _____

e-mail: _____ phone: _____ fax: _____

PAYMENT:

General registration, which includes coffee on 2 and 3 August:

For ISBA members \$50

For non members \$75, which includes \$25 for ISBA membership

NB: In order to ensure that we have enough meals we must give the catering service ample planning time. Please register as early as possible, certainly before 15 July 96. Significant others, spouses, etc. are welcome as guests at the lunch and the banquet.

Lunch at the Gleacher Center on 3 August: \$12 per person;

Self ___ Guest ___

Conference banquet at the Gleacher Center: \$37 per person including wine;

Beef ___ Chicken ___ Fish ___ (Choose one)

Self ___ Guest ___

___: My check for _____ payable to International Society for Bayesian Analysis

___: Credit Card Payment

Amount _____ American Express ___ MasterCard ___ VISA ___

Name as it appears on the credit card: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTION
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BAYESIAN ANALYSIS**

1. Purpose:

The purpose of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) is to foster the study of Bayesian analysis, including applications, and its alternatives.

2. Officers:

A. The officers of ISBA are a President Elect, President, Past President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Program Chair, Program Chair, and Past Program Chair.

B. Each year a President Elect is elected by a vote of the membership, to take office for a term of one year. The President Elect then succeeds to the office of President for a term of one year. The President succeeds to the Office of Past President for a term of one year.

C. The Executive Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the membership for staggered three year terms.

D. The President Elect appoints a Vice Program Chair, who serves for a year, succeeds to the office of Program Chair for a year, and then succeeds to the office of Past Program Chair for a year.

3. Duties of officers as a Group:

A. The elected officers of ISBA (President Elect, President, Past President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer) constitute the Executive Committee of the Board, which shall follow the general policies established by the Board and shall conduct the affairs of the Society between meetings of the Board.

B. The Executive Committee shall report to the Board at each Board Meeting.

C. The Executive Committee shall periodically formulate recommendations for action by the Board.

4. Duties of the Officers Individually

A. The President chairs meetings of the Board, Executive Committee and General Membership. In the absence of the President, the President Elect chairs; in the absence of both, the Past President chairs.

B. The Executive Secretary records the actions taken at meetings of the Board, Executive Committee and General Membership. In the absence of the Executive Secretary, the chair of the meeting appoints a recording Secretary for that meeting, who transmits the minutes of that meeting to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary keeps lists of officers, Board members, Committee members and Society members, and sends and counts ballots when mail votes are taken.

C. The Treasurer oversees the receipt and disbursement of all funds of ISBA, ensures that proper financial records are kept, and makes periodic financial reports to the Board.

D. The Program Chair arranges and co-ordinates all activities associated with meetings in which ISBA is involved, and chairs the Program Council, consisting of the Vice Program Chair, Program Chair and Past Program Chair.

5. The Board of Directors

A. In addition to the elected officers, the Board consists of twelve persons elected for staggered three year terms.

B. The Board is the policy making group in ISBA.

6. Elections

A. Only ISBA members are eligible for elections.

B. ISBA does not pay a salary to Officers, Board Members or Committee Members.

C. A Nominating Committee, chaired by the Past President and whose other members are appointed by the Board, shall nominate two or more members for each office. The Bylaws provide for additional nominations by member petition.

7. Amendment and Procedures

A. This Constitution takes precedence over the Bylaws, which take precedence over resolutions of the Board.

B. The Constitution may be adopted and amended by a two-thirds vote of those ISBA members who return ballots in a mail vote.

C. The Bylaws may be amended by majority vote in two successive Board meetings, with at least a two-week interval between the meetings.

D. Board resolutions may be adopted by majority vote of the Board.

BALLOT FOR 1996 ISBA ELECTION

Only ISBA members in good standing may vote in the election. All ballots must be received by May 31. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Mail your ballot to:

Mark Schervish
Department of Statistics
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
USA

If you have not paid your 1996 dues, please use the form enclosed with the ISBA newsletter.

IN ORDER FOR YOUR BALLOT TO BE VALID YOUR NAME MUST APPEAR ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE ENCLOSING YOUR BALLOT. The envelopes will be separated from the ballots before the ballots are examined.

The ballot appears on THE OPPOSITE SIDE of this page. In addition to ISBA officers, members are also asked whether or not they approve of the draft ISBA constitution included in this Newsletter.

The candidates for president have provided the brief biographical information below:

Stephen E. Fienberg

Maurice Falk Professor of Statistics and Social Science, Department of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A. Education: B.Sc. (1964) University of Toronto; A.M. (1965), Ph.D. (1968) Harvard University. Research Interests: Analysis of categorical data; Bayesian approaches to confidentiality and data disclosure; causation; foundations of statistical inference; history of statistics; sample surveys and randomized experiments; statistics and the law.

Herman K. van Dijk

Professor, Econometric Institute, Erasmus University/Chairman Tinbergen Institute, joint research institute of Erasmus University, the University of Amsterdam and the Free University Amsterdam. Education: Doctorandus degree (1964) University of Groningen, Netherlands; Ph. D. (1984) Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands. Research interests: Dynamic modelling including nonstationary processes; Income distribution analysis; Bayesian inference using Monte Carlo integration methods; Econometric modelling of interdependent market systems.

President (vote for one):

___ Stephen Fienberg Carnegie Mellon U., Pittsburgh, USA

___ Herman van Dijk Erasmus U., Rotterdam, Netherlands

Vice President (vote for one):

___ Susie Bayarri U. Valencia, Spain
___ Michael Evans U. Toronto, Canada

Secretary (vote for one):

___ Fabrizio Ruggeri CNR-IAMI, Milan, Italy
___ Larry Wasserman Carnegie Mellon U., Pittsburgh, USA

Treasurer (vote for one):

___ Rob McCulloch U. Chicago, USA
___ Refik Soyer George Washington U., Washington DC, USA

International Advisors (vote for no more than 12):

___ Mark Berliner Ohio State U., Columbus, USA
___ Jose Bernardo U. Valencia, Spain
___ Guido Consonni U. L. Bocconi, Milan, Italy
___ Enrique de Alba ITAM, Mexico
___ John Deely U. Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zeland
___ Mohan Delampady Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore, India
___ Dipak Dey U. Connecticut, Storrs, USA
___ Simon French U. Leeds, UK
___ Dani Gamerman U. Federal, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
___ Alan Gelfand U. Connecticut, Storrs, USA
___ Ed George U. Texas, Austin, USA
___ Jayanta K. Ghosh Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, India
___ Jay Kadane Carnegie Mellon U., Pittsburgh, USA
___ Robert Kohn U. New South Wales, Kensington, Australia
___ Frank Lad U. Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zeland
___ Jack Lee Nat'l Chiao Tung U., Hsinchi, Taiwan
___ Elias Moreno U. Granada, Spain
___ Michel Mouchart U. Catholique de Louvain Pays, Belgium
___ Luis Pericchi U. Simon Bolivar, Caracas, Venezuela
___ Theo Stewart U. Capetown, Rondebosch, South Africa
___ Mike West Duke U., Durham, USA
___ Robert Wolpert Duke U., Durham, USA
___ Alyson Wilson Cowboy Programming Resources, Las Cruces, USA
___ Arnold Zellner U. Chicago, USA
___ Jim Zidek U. British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Constitution referendum:

Do you approve the enclosed ISBA constitution? ___Yes No___