

## International Year of Statistics News

January 28, 2013

### Check out Website for Activities & Ideas

On an almost daily basis, we are adding new items to the [Activities](#) calendar posted to the [Statistics2013](#) website. This list of International Year of Statistics-related events is an excellent place for finding activities in which you and your organization can participate to celebrate Statistics2013. It also is a great place for seeing what other organizations around the world are doing to mark the celebration and using 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! And when your event's plans are finalized, send the information to [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org) for posting to the Activities calendar so others see what you group is doing for Statistics2013.

### Reminder of the Statistics2013 Video Contest

The deadline for entries for the [Statistics2013 Video contest](#) is only one month away.

### Participation Approaches 1,600

There are now 1,585 organizations from 112 countries worldwide participating in the International Year of Statistics. More than four in 10—42%—are universities; 16% are businesses, 13% are governmental agencies, and 11% are national and international statistical societies. Research institutes, secondary schools, and various entities within the American Statistical Association make up the bulk of the remaining 18%.

If you know of an organization interested in joining, please tell their representative to go to [www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org) and click on the "Join Statistics2013" icon on the right side of the homepage to become an official Statistics2013 participating organization. Keep up the great work, everyone!

### Upcoming & Past Activities

Here's the latest on upcoming and recently concluded Statistics2013 meetings and events:

**Canada**—The Department of Computer Science and Applied Statistics at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John campus is hosting a special Statistics2013 lecture by Dr. Chris Field, professor emeritus in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Dalhousie University located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Feb. 7. During his talk, Field will illustrate how simple statistical models can be used to make inferences based on abundance data collected by birders, including the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas carried out from 1985 to 1989, and a dataset compiled from the 1960s to present day of migrating birds passing through Seal Island in the Bay of Fundy off southwest Nova Scotia each spring and fall. The free talk is open to the public. [Learn more.](#)

**United States**—The National Science Foundation (NSF) kicked off its celebrations of the International Year of Statistics on Jan. 25 with a special seminar by Dr. Nassim Taleb. Dr. Taleb is a distinguished professor and author of the best-selling books *Black Swan*, *Foiled by Randomness* and *Antifragile*.

Dr. Fleming Crim, the new assistant director of the Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS) at NSF welcomed a packed room of more than 100 people, expressing his pleasure in joining more than 1,565 organizations around the globe in publicizing the power and impact of statistical sciences. While introducing Dr. Taleb, Dr. Sastry Pantula, division director of NSF/MPS, emphasized the importance of the proper uses of statistical methods and how misuses can lead to lack of public trust in science.



*Dr. Nassim Taleb, distinguished professor and best-selling author, speaks at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Va. on Jan. 25.*

Dr. Taleb gave an entertaining and thought-provoking talk on spurious correlations, the importance of convexity, and antifragility in decision-making. Afterward, many attendees called Taleb’s talk “one of the most fascinating” ever at NSF.

NSF will host other distinguished seminars and activities throughout the International Year of Statistics, says Pantula.

**United Kingdom**—In celebration of Statistics2013, the Lancaster University Department of Mathematics and Statistics will be hosting a series of public lectures on the impact of statistics. Called “More Than a Number”, the lectures will feature statisticians from the department talking about their exciting work and how it relates to daily life. The first part of the series runs from February 13 to April 24, with the second part running from September to November. [Learn more](#) about each talk and how to register for free tickets.

**Canada**—The University of Toronto Department of Statistical Sciences is hosting an “International Year of Statistics Public Lecture Series” throughout the year. The series of six lectures began Jan. 21 with a talk by Carnegie Mellon University (U.S.) Statistics Professor Stephen Fienberg titled “On the Causes of Effects”. It will conclude Nov. 21 with a lecture by Susan Murphy, the H.E. Robbins Professor of Statistics at the University of Michigan (U.S.), titled “Smart Use of Smart Phones and Other Mobile Devices to Improve Health”. [Learn more](#) about this lecture series.

**Thailand**—Last week, Professor John Borkowski of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Montana State University (MSU), gave a special Statistics2013 talk to graduate and doctorate students at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of Thammasat University in Pathumthani. Titled “A Modern and Less-Traditional PhD Program: A Case Study from the Doctoral Degree Program in Statistics at Montana State University”, Borkowski talked to the students about the strengths of MSU’s statistics program.



*PhD and Master’s students in statistics (from Thailand, Pakistan and Myanmar) pose for a photo with special Statistics2013 speaker, Montana State University statistics professor John Borkowski (center second row), at Thammasat University in Pathumthani, Thailand.*

**International**—For a decade, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Statistics Directorate has organized annual "Statistics Days" with the objective to showcase OECD statistics and the work of OECD statisticians. The next OECD Statistics Day, organized within the context of Statistics2013, will take place April 5 at the agency’s Paris headquarters. During this event, OECD statisticians will present several organization projects that contribute to increasing public awareness of

the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society. Additionally, OECD staff will organise an exhibition showcasing data visualization tools and other initiatives that ensure statistics are more easily accessible. More details will follow soon.

**United States**—The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES), will sponsor a two-day meeting for the membership of the National Forum on Education Statistics followed by the three-day 2013 MIS Conference. The events, to be held in Washington, D.C. (U.S.), begin Feb. 11 and run through Feb. 15. The 26th annual MIS Conference is comprised of concentrated information about best practices, innovative ideas, current issues, and practical how-to advice about management information systems for K-12 education. The conference brings together people who work with information collection, management, transmittal, and reporting in school districts and state education agencies. The MIS Conference will have more than 100 presentations and demonstrations conducted by practitioners from K-12 information systems. [Learn more](#) about both NCES events.

**Philippines**—As part of Statistics2013, the CLSU Statistical Society, a college-based organization founded in 2006 by bachelor of statistics students at Central Luzon State University, will be conducting a statistics quiz bee in the province on Feb. 22. The contest will be for secondary school students.

**Spain**—The Statistical Institute of Catalonia is showing its support for the International Year of Statistics to the public through a special banner hanging on the front of its building in the heart of downtown Barcelona.



*The Statistical Institute of Catalonia building in downtown Barcelona, Spain.*

**Croatia**—A celebration of the International Year of Statistics at [Gimnazija Bernardin Frankopan](#) secondary school in Ogulin primarily was organized by students of the economic department and their

statistics teacher, Branko Rumenović. The students divided into groups and developed four panels, which are being exhibited in the school's hallways throughout January and February. The first panel is associated with Statistics2013, while the others present the population of Croatia, nearby Karlovac County, and Ogulin-Modruš Valley. While creating each panel, the students learned to explore, collect and edit data, numerically and graphically analyze data, and interpret population data. In addition, the school has posted a link to the Statistics2013 website on its webpage.



*Students from statistics teacher Branko Rumenović's class in Ogulin, Croatia.*

**Palestine**—The [Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics](#) (PCBS), a strong supporter of the International Year of Statistics, has formed an internal committee that is responsible for developing and implementing the agency's plans during 2013. Among its activities are:

1. *A Calendar for PCBS Publications*—The calendar focuses on PCBS social responsibility through publishing press releases and statistical reports on special occasions, such as Women International Day, International Health Day, International Day of Refugees, and other international events. PCBS has involved all its partners by sharing the agency statistical calendar for 2013.
2. *Electronic Monthly Bulletin*—This bulletin is distributed to more than 100,000 worldwide recipients.
3. *Promotional Items*—Documentary films, PCBS-specific printed materials and PCBS pictures, all of which document the growth and development of PCBS over the years.

### **Big Money, Big Data and You**

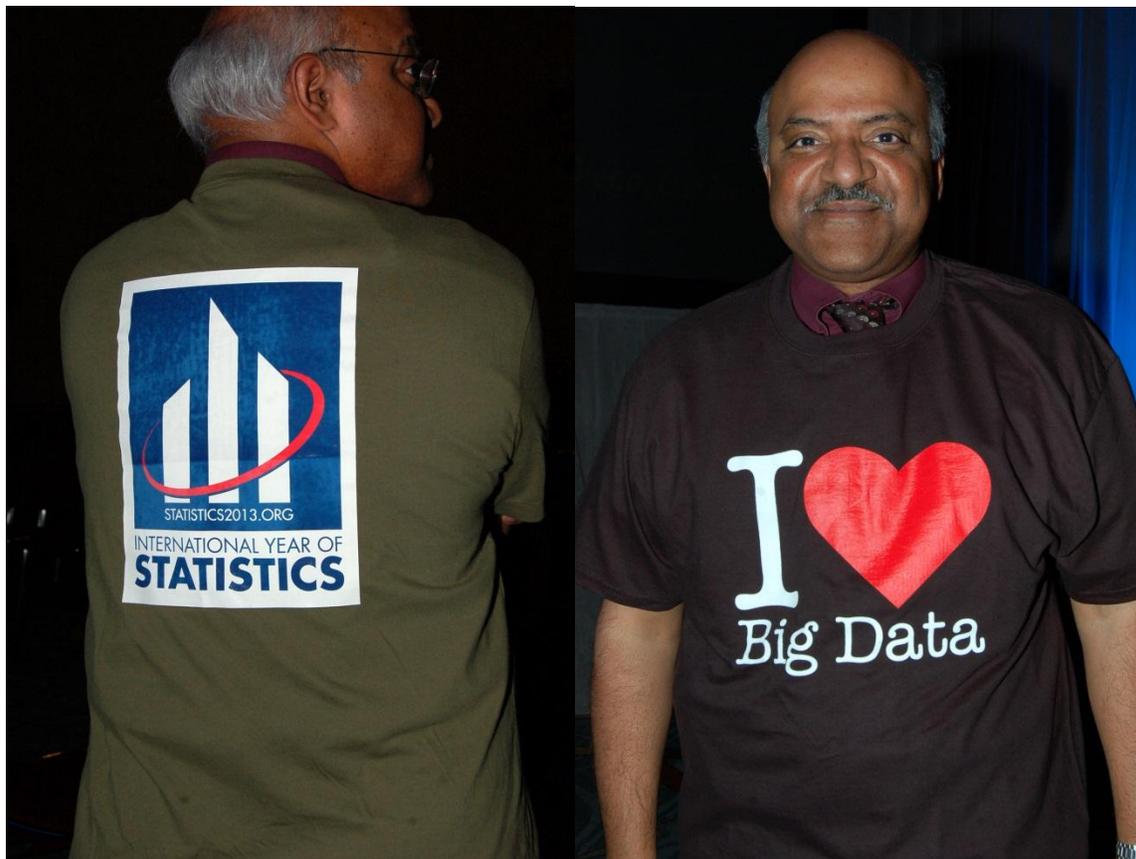
In this, the International Year of Statistics, you can contribute your valuable statistical expertise to one of the largest data contests to date. Called the Bicoastal Datafest, this cross-disciplinary event involves

data scientists, engineers, journalists, political scientists, and software developers who are joining together to analyze money's influence in politics. Using data, they will model and explore a range of issues in the intersection of money and politics.

The event will be held simultaneously at Columbia and Stanford universities in the United States on Feb. 2 and 3. While a big part of the event will take place at these universities, an equally important part will take place online. The organizational platform is the event's wiki, where you can brainstorm, comment and develop project ideas. Access the [event's wiki](#) to register and participate.

### **Taking Statistics2013 to a Higher Plane**

Some people just can't get enough of the International Year of Statistics. They live and breathe Statistics2013 and are tireless champions of the campaign. Take for instance Sastry Pantula, a professor of statistics at North Carolina State University in the United States; a member of the [Statistics2013 Steering Committee](#) who helped found the campaign; and a past president of the American Statistical Association. Words alone cannot give justice to Sastry's fervor for Statistics2013. That's why we provide these photos for your viewing pleasure. After seeing this visual proof, we're sure you'll agree that Sastry is a wonderful champion of Statistics2013 and statistics:



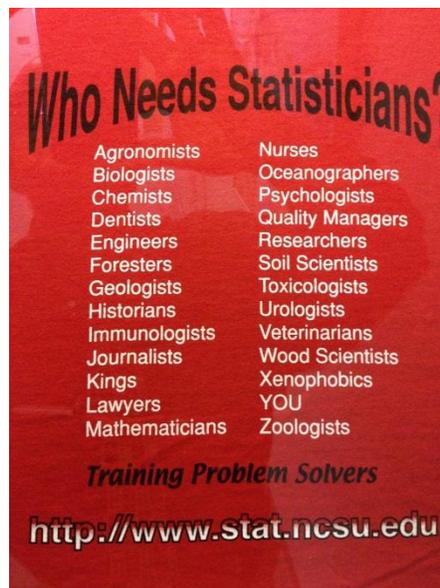
*Statistics2013 Steering Committee member Sastry Pantula*

Need further proof? How about these tasty treats that Sastry had made:



Yes, those are M&M's imprinted with the Statistics2013 logo, the words "Invisible Impact" and "IYSSTAT 2013", and the logo emblazoned with the words "Participating Organization"!

And, here's the final piece of evidence that proves Sastry is an unabashed champion of statistics, a T-shirt:



In all seriousness, we thank Sastry for all that he is doing to advance the profession and Statistics2013.

### **Statistics2013 Website is for You!**

Since the [Statistics2013 website](#) was launched, we have received numerous requests from participants seeking permission to link to the site and use its content—particularly the [posters](#) and the [downloadable flyer](#)—in their public promotional efforts.

The website is filled with information to educate the public about how statistics improves their lives, the work of statisticians as well as careers in statistical science. As such, we invite and encourage all International Year of Statistics participating organizations to make use of these resources.

If you have not visited the site yet, take the time soon to peruse its public-oriented informational content, including these helpful resource areas:

- *What is Statistics?*—An explanation in layman’s language
- *Stats2013AtSchool*—A statistics quiz for school students
- *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, comprehensive list of 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](http://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, and
- 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
- Dutch

- English
- French
- German
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Portuguese (Portugal)
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish

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](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org) to request a copy of the script that you can translate.

### **Official Statistics2013 Logos**

With the recent 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](http://www.statistics2013.org) and then clicking on “[Resources](#)” in the pull-down menu. The link to the logos is listed first on the page.

### **Wiley Offers Statistics2013 Incentives**

Wiley, a strong supporter of the International Year of Statistics, has developed several ways in which people worldwide can experience and try out its statistics content throughout 2013. It has created a number of offers (including *Significance* magazine), which are presented on its new statistics information hub at [StatisticsViews.com](http://StatisticsViews.com).

There are several exciting *Significance* initiatives, each of which can be accessed from [www.wiley.com/go/iys](http://www.wiley.com/go/iys):

- *Free Access to the Significance Magazine App*. This app—available in both iOS and Android—offers free access to all 2013 issues of the magazine throughout the entire year. To get free access, visit [www.significancemagazine.org/view/SigAppnew.html](http://www.significancemagazine.org/view/SigAppnew.html) to register.

- [FREE Trial Access](#). Wiley is offering a three-month free trial access (personal trials only) to all its statistics journals, including *Significance*. Content for the trial is from Wiley publications from the period of January to June 2011.
- [Classic Journal Content](#). Wiley has created a number of “Virtual Issues” featuring classic articles from across its portfolio. *Significance* is included in the Statistics Cluster Virtual Issue.
- [Classic Book Content](#). FREE Access to 100 online book and eMRW chapters during 2013.

Also, the International Year of Statistics website homepage, [www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org), features original *Significance* content that will be updated regularly with magazine and [Significancemagazine.org](http://Significancemagazine.org) articles.

### Share Your News, Photos

As you saw in this issue, we are sharing Statistics2013 news and photos with all participants through this newsletter. Please let us know in advance about your organization’s upcoming events and activities and afterward tell us about the success of each.

While you’re at it, please share pictures of your events and activities with us as well. We’ll run your photos and stories so others see the creative and fun ways that your organization is promoting the International Year of Statistics.

Help us keep everyone involved in Statistics2013 up to date on happenings around the world by sending your news and photos to [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org).

### Language-Specific Logos Available

The Statistics2013 logo is available in [32 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](mailto: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.

### Share Your Logo with Us

If you already have created a version of the Statistics2013 logo in your country’s language, please e-mail a jpg file to [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org) and we’ll post it to the website so others can use it.

## **Follow Us on Twitter, Facebook**

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.