

# *News from the World of Statistics*



**February 14, 2017**

The World of Statistics is experimenting with adding job listings for statistics and data science to the newsletter. There is no cost for listing available jobs, but listings must be limited to 250 words and include a link to where more detailed information about the position can be found. We hope this will be a valuable service to the worldwide community of statisticians and data scientists. Send your listing to [ron@amstat.org](mailto:ron@amstat.org).

## **NEWS**

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### **Proposals Accepted for International Statistical Literacy Award**



The International Statistical Literacy Project is accepting nominations for the [Best Cooperative Project Award in Statistical Literacy](#). Presented every two years, the award recognizes outstanding, innovative, and influential statistical literacy projects that affect a broad segment of the general public and are fruit of the cooperation of different types of institutions (national statistical offices, schools, statistical societies, media, libraries etc.). Proposals should be sent to the ISLP Deputy Director, [Steve MacFeely](#) by the end of April 2017. The winning project receives 1000 euros.

### **First East African Conference on Mathematical Statistics Set for June**

The **First East African Conference on Mathematical Statistics with Applications** (EACMSA I) will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, June 14-16, 2017. Invited speakers include A. Lyambabaje, Executive Secretary of IUCEA, Uganda; S. Puntanen, University Lecturer in Statistics, University of Tampere, Finland; N. Balakrishnan, Professor of Statistics, McMaster University, Canada; J. Pan, Professor of Statistics, University of Manchester, United Kingdom; and Youssef Ouknine, Applied Mathematics, Statistics, Probability Theory, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh, Morocco. Registration deadline is March 31, 2017.

## Latin American Conference Addressed $p$ -Value Debate



The [XIV Latin American Congress of Probability and Mathematical Statistics](#) took place December 5-9, 2016, at the University of Costa Rica. Approximately 150 attendees participated in the program, which consisted of a large variety of thematic sessions, five short courses, contributed sessions, and posters contributions. Invited speakers included Susan Murphy, University of Michigan; David Nualart, University of Kansas; Barry Simon, Caltech; Gavin Shaddick, University of Bath, UK; Graciela Boente, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Alexei Borodin, MIT; Onésimo Hernández, CINVESTAV, México; and Michael Hudgens, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A round-table discussion focused on the ASA's statement about  $p$ -values with participants addressing the future for the questionable statistical concept. Notable presentations were given by professors María Fernanda Alvarado and Mauricio Campos of the University of Costa Rica, whose work is respectively titled, "Considerations on Data Attributes When Modeling Binomial or Poisson Grouped Data" and "Using Bayesian and Traditional Meta-Analysis Methods to Study the Effects of Strength Exercises in Women with Fibromyalgia."

## U.S. Organizations to Commemorate Mathematics & Statistics Month in April

The American Statistical Association (ASA), American Mathematical Society (AMS), Mathematical Association of America, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) are coordinating advocacy efforts to celebrate Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month, which will be celebrated in April 2017. A poster competition, social media blasts, and website resources are planned as part of the month-long festivities to educate the public about the value and impact of math and statistics, not only in education and employment but in everyday life.

## UN's FAO Hosts Series of International Roundtables on Agriculture Census



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is conducting a series of [Regional Roundtables](#), organized by the FAO Census Team of the Statistics Division. The 5-day long Regional Roundtables aim to disseminate among member countries of FAO the new [World Program for the Census of Agriculture 2020](#) (WCA 2020) which will cover the period 2016-2025.

Roundtables have already taken place in the Middle East, Asia, Francophone Africa, and Latin America. Two forthcoming ones in Europe and Central Asia as well as the Caribbean are set for April and May 2017, respectively.

## Romania's Statistics Institute Focused on Statistics, Modernization



The National Institute of Statistics recently hosted a [special event](#) in Bucharest featuring notable individuals such as Emil Constantinescu, former President of Romania and well-known publicist Ion M. Ioniță to address the topic of “Statistics – Modernization Factor for the Society.”

INS President Tudorel Andrei referenced specific future activities as data collection and processing, the increase of the relevance of statistical information and the permanent shortening of the time distance between the period of reference and the moment of dissemination of statistical results. Romanian official statistics intends to meet the demands of the society with an approach that is better, faster, and more efficient in terms of cost.

Constantinescu expressed appreciation for the activity of the institute, of the way in which INS succeeded in such a short period, and its ability to adapt to the demands of radical changes in the country following the December 1989 revolution.

Ioniță insisted on the crucial role of the statistical information in the correct assessment of a social-economic event in conveying the amplitude of the changes experienced by Romania in the last decades through statistical data.

## **JOB OPENINGS**

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### [Biostatistics Chair](#)

**School of Public Health and Health Professions**

**University at Buffalo**

**State University of New York**

**Buffalo, New York**

The School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) at the University at Buffalo (UB), State University of New York (SUNY), seeks a Chair of Biostatistics. Preferred candidates will have a strong record of excellence in academic leadership and statistical research. The Department of Biostatistics has a reputation for excellence in methodologic and collaborative research and education. The department offers PhD, MA, and MPH degrees, and an MS in bioinformatics and biostatistics. A proposal for an undergraduate degree is in the final stage of review.

Department faculty are engaged in a range of methodologic and transdisciplinary research. Collaborative research within and outside the university is integrated with the department's academic and research missions.

UB and Buffalo provide a rich environment for advancement of the department's faculty. In addition to the SPHHP, the department has relationships with the UB Clinical and Translational Research Center (recently awarded an NIH CTSA), other UB schools, and numerous regional institutions. UB is a member of the Association of American Universities, and the SPHHP is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

Questions can be addressed to the search committee chair, [Jo Freudenheim](#). This is a 12-month, state supported position. UB is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer/Recruiter that welcomes and fosters diversity among applicants, faculty, staff, and students and encourages applications from members of groups underrepresented in biostatistics.

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Post an event on the [Activities Calendar](#).

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