



International Year of Statistics News

May 6, 2013

Winners of Statistics2013 Video Contest Revealed

The big winner of the Statistics2013 Video Contest—[sponsored by Wiley](#)—was an 18-year-old high-school student from Brimfield, Massachusetts in the United States. To refresh your memory, the contest’s three award categories were:

- **Best Overall Video**
- **Best Video by a Person or Persons 18 Years of Age or Less**
- **Best Non-English Language Video**

Jason T. Girouard claimed the top honor—the Best Overall Video—and his production also was awarded first place in the “Best Video by a Person or Persons 18 Years of Age or Less” category, giving him top billing in two of the competition’s three categories. The Best Non-English Language Video prize was awarded to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office for its production titled “That is What We Are”.

In all, 59 videos were submitted by individuals and groups in numerous countries. The video contest was judged by a committee of representatives from several countries around the globe, including Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia and Belgium, and chaired by Thomas Short, John Carroll University professor of statistics and a member of the [American Statistical Association](#).

You can view the list of all winners and watch their videos at www.statistics2013.org.

We will be distributing to you this week a press release about the video contest and the winners. Please share the release with the media and post it to your organization’s website.

Wiley, which is providing the contest prize money, is linking to the winning videos on its www.StatisticsViews.com website and will be including an article about the video contest in its May newsletter. Additionally, *Significance* magazine will be posting all 59 submitted videos on its website.

2,013 in 2013!

We’ve never set a goal for the number of participating organizations in Statistics2013, but it occurred to us recently that 2,013 would be a great number to reach. As of today, we are only 66 participants from

that goal. Participation currently stands at 1,947 organizations from 122 countries worldwide. Check out the up-to-date participant and country lists at the [Statistics2013 website](#).

You can help us surpass the 2,013-participant mark by encouraging other organizations, secondary schools and universities in your area to join the worldwide celebration. It's easy to join. Simply tell representatives of these groups to go to www.statistics2013.org and click on the "Join Statistics2013" icon on the right side of the homepage to become an official International Year of Statistics organization.

Planning Underway for Future of Statistical Sciences Workshop

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.

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 in the workshop is by invitation 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.

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

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

A section dedicated to the workshop is being prepared on the [Statistics2013 website](#). It will be online soon.

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 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 your organization. We'll publish the profile on the Statistics2013 website homepage for a week. Send your submissions to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Significance, RSS Young Statisticians Sponsoring Writing Competition

A writing competition, the second jointly sponsored by the Young Statisticians Section of the [Royal Statistical Society](#) (RSS) and *Significance* magazine, will celebrate The International Year of Statistics. The first competition, held in 2012, was hugely success with 24 entries; four were published in the magazine. Anyone is welcome to enter, regardless of membership or affiliation. The only stipulation for is that you be “young” (in career terms, not necessarily in age); that is you must be a student or within the first 10 years of your career. Before sitting down to compose your article, the organizers suggest that you can read [last year's winning entry](#) and a [runner-up entry](#) plus [learn more about the writing competition](#) and what makes an article stand out. In light of the success of last year's competition, the sponsors are encouraging more young writers to put pen to paper—or fingers to keyboard! Entries should be submitted via email to significance@rss.org.uk as a text or Word file or as a PDF. *The submission deadline is June 1.* *Significance* magazine is published jointly by the RSS and the [American Statistical Association](#) and is for anyone interested in statistics and the analysis and interpretation of data.

Participating Organization: News & Events

Here's the latest news on upcoming and recently concluded Statistics2013 meetings and events hosted by participating organizations:

International—In celebration of the International Year of Statistics, the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics' (ENBIS) Greenfield Challenge is going international in 2013. The award recognizes statisticians who tell an outside audience about his or her work in statistics and thereby raise awareness of the public about the contributions of statistics to society. The communication can be through direct contact, such as a presentation or an article in a publication. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. is sponsoring the Greenfield Challenge. *The award submission deadline is May 31.* To learn more about the Greenfield Challenge, past honorees and award criteria, go to www.statistics2013.org and click on the “ENBIS Greenfield Challenge” graphic on the homepage. An ENBIS committee will choose the most outstanding submissions to be awarded and presented at ENBIS—13 in Ankara, Turkey in September. Travel costs of the winner will be provided.

Namibia—An article about Statistics2013 and statistics on the African continent written by two prominent professors recently was published in *The Namibian*, the country's largest newspaper. In the article, titled [The Value of Statistics](#), Dr. Mitonga Kabwebwe Honoré and Dr. Isak Neema wrote: “Finally in celebration of the International Year of Statistics, we call for efforts to enhance awareness of careers in statistics and related analytics fields among high school students in Namibia. There is also a need for systematic effort to document current and future workforce needs and assess the ability to meet these needs. Furthermore, there is a need for African statisticians and their developmental partners to work in close cooperation, maintaining and reactivat[ing] structures among statisticians established at the sub-

regional and regional levels such as the Committee on Development Information (CODI) and the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA).”

United Kingdom—The 36th Research Student’s Conference (RSC) in Statistics, Probability and Applied Social Statistics was held at Lancaster University at the end of March. The conference is an annual event that empowers research students from across Europe to meet, present work and develop inter-institution connections. Topics spanned theoretical to applied statistics. The event was attended by students at different stages of their studies. The conference began with plenary talks from Sir Adrian Smith, who discussed his extensive career as a Bayesian statistician, and Professor Denise Lievesley, who discussed the role of an international statistician. RSC2013 closed with talks by representatives of various sponsors, such as Shell, JBA, Pfizer and Atass, who spoke to this next generation of statisticians about the role of a statistician and the importance of statistics in each of their fields, and finished with a talk by the Royal Statistical Society on how to get more involved within the RSS. RSC2014 will be held April 28 to May 1 next year at The University of Nottingham.



The winners of the three best talks and the best poster at RSC2013.

Spain—In the last issue we told you about a declaration of support for the International Year of Statistics adopted by the Parliament of Catalonia. The declaration was supported by the Statistical Institute of Catalonia and the Catalan Society of Statistics. A group of statisticians from government bodies and professionals working in research and industry was received by the president of the Parliament. Sra. Núria de Gispert. [Here is an English version of the declaration for your reading pleasure.](#)

United States—The International Year of Statistics was promoted to an audience of nearly 4,300 statisticians from around the world at the recently conducted [SAS Global Forum](#) in San Francisco. The conference is an annual event planned and sponsored by the [SAS Global Users Group](#). Dr. David A.

Dickey, William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor in the Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University, and Maura Stokes of SAS, were interviewed for the “SAS Global Forum Live Report”. They talked about the field of statistics and Statistics2013. [Watch the “Live Report” segment here.](#)

United States—The Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) recently hosted the Simons Foundation Public Lecture, at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The event featured Dr. Francesca Dominici, professor of biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health and Associate Dean of Information Technology, talking about “The Public Health Impact of Air Pollution and Climate Change”. The event was held as part of Statistics2013.



Dr. Dominici talks about climate change at the Simons Foundation Public Lecture held as part of Statistics2013

Italy—The International Year of Statistics is being promoted by the Treviso Chamber of Commerce. The local group has republished the Statistics2013 Newsletter online in English at Trevisosystem.com in its newsletter within a section dedicated to news abroad. The site is the chamber’s official location for economic information.

Paraguay—March 11 marked the opening of the International Year of Statistics 2013 at the School of Exact and Natural Sciences (FACEN) of the National University of Asunción, located on the campus of the city of San Lorenzo. Participants included FACEN administrators, teachers, alumni and students of the School of Statistics, in addition to students of other schools, such as Chemistry, Production Technology, Pure Mathematics, Biology, Physics and Geology. During the event, a resolution adopted by the FACEN Board was read that declares activities held at the school for the International Year of Statistics 2013 are of academic interest to the National University of Asunción.

Uzbekistan—The second conference called “Statistics and Its Applications” will be held at the National University of Uzbekistan in Tashkent on October 17 and 18. For more information, you can [visit the conference website](#).

United States—The National Science Foundation’s Division of Mathematical Sciences recently conducted the second of its lecture series dedicated to the International Year of Statistics. Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), was the featured speaker. Hrabowski chaired the National Academies’ committee that produced the 2011 report, “Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation: America’s Science and Technology Talent at the Crossroads.” During his talk, Hrabowski discussed the results of the report and focused on the innovative strategies used by his university to educate students both from underrepresented groups and from around the world in mathematics, statistics and other scientific and technical fields.



Dr. Hrabowski presents at the NSF Mathematical Sciences Division’s Statistics2013 Lecture Series.

Iran—To mark the International Year of Statistics, Isfahan Math House (IMH) in Isfahan has formed a variety of activities with these goals:

- Changing attitudes and public awareness of the importance of statistics
- Introducing basics of statistics at different levels
- Concrete jobs related to statistics
- Meeting opportunities for students, teachers, professors and everyone interested in statistics

The IMH ideas for celebrating Statistics2013 include holding photo and writing contests; hosting a series of seminars on the application of statistics in industry; creating an industrial statistics research committee; forming research rings for different fields of statistics and the school's statistical consulting center; producing content about statistics and probability and using these materials at schools for different levels of students, and designing a high-school contest for the best project in statistical modeling. Other initiatives are holding statistical course services for teachers; creating promotional items (T-shirts and hats) with the Statistics2013 logo and statistic-related photos; and preparing a brief history of statistics in Iran and compiling a list of veteran statisticians. Lastly, the school will stage a two-day National Conference on Hospital Statistics. This conference, being organized jointly with the Social Security Organization with the cooperation of Isfahan University of Medical Science, will highlight the activities of statisticians in hospitals and other parts of the health sector.

Mexico—As part of its ongoing celebrations of Statistics2013, the Center for Research in Mathematics at the University of Guanajuato recently hosted a presentation titled “What Would Life Be Without Statistics” given by Mendoza Ramirez. During the talk, Ramirez discussed the country's presidential elections, reviewed the origins of statistics, and talked about the role statistics played in the consolidation of democracy and electoral processes in Mexico.



Ramirez discusses elections and statistics at CIMAT.

Spain—The Faculty of Statistical Studies of the Complutense University of Madrid has developed [several initiatives to commemorate the International Year of Statistics](#). Planned activities are:

- Poster design competition about personalities who have helped to develop and enhance statistics throughout history
- A series of conferences
- A roundtable discussion titled “Teaching Statistics in Spain”

- Informative activities for high-school students
- A competition for high-school students, called “Incubadora de Sondeos y Experimentos”, consisting of a statistical project about a current topic.

These activities are in addition to the [Statistical Olympiad](#) for high-school students supported by the university’s statistics faculty and the National Institute of Statistics we told you about previously.



A banner heralding Statistics2013 hangs on a Complutense University of Madrid campus building.

International—Here are a couple recent news articles about Statistics2013 and statistics careers that were published in newspapers around the world:

- **Mexico:** [Los megavatios, las palomillas y la ciencia de los números](#)
- **United States:** [Statistics is 20th Best Job of 2013](#)

United States—Sastry Pantula, a member of the Statistics2013 Steering Committee, presented the annual Hari Shankar Memorial Lecture at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Cedar Falls, Iowa on April 29. Pantula spoke about Statistics2013 as well as society’s increasing dependence on Big Data. Pantula discussed the related applications, methodologies, opportunities and challenges presented by Big Data. Shankar, who passed away in June 2008, taught at Ohio University for more than 30 years before joining the UNI Department of Mathematics as a visiting professor.

Slovakia—The Slovak Statistical and Demographical Society (SSDS) celebrated its 45th anniversary with a ceremonial conference March 20 in Sládkovičovo. The conference was hosted by PhDr. Ľudmila Benkovičová, CSc., president of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SOSR). The conference was one of the events the SSDS is holding in the International Year of Statistics. The conference was opened by Doc. Ing. Jozef Chajdiak, CSc., SSDS president; and chaired by RNDr. Peter Mach, SSDS vice president of international relations. PhDr. Benkovičová presented the opening speech on the integration processes in the Slovak statistical system. She congratulated SSDS on its significant anniversary and

expressed her appreciation for the cooperation between the Statistical Office and the SSDS. A detailed report on the conference's full scientific program will be published on the [SSDS website](#).

National Statistical Organization: News & Events

Here's the latest news on upcoming and recently concluded Statistics2013 meetings and events hosted by participating organizations:

United Arab Emirates—Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) will bring together 300 decision-makers and experts from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and across the world during its Statistical Conference 2013, which will be held on May 12 through 13 in Abu Dhabi. The conference will highlight the importance of the quality of the administrative data records that SCAD produces for government authorities, semi-government agencies and private companies within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi as well as emphasize the significance of providing information that will support the efforts of decision-makers in transforming the UAE economy into a knowledge-based one. International best practices in the field of quality statistical data will be reviewed during the event. Eighteen speakers from 13 countries, representing the most important national statistics centers in the world, have been confirmed. They will present working papers during sessions that demonstrate their cumulative experiences in the fields of electronic statistics, quality data, quality data management, preservation and dissemination. The conference is part of SCAD's activities to mark 2013 as the International Year of Statistics. [Read more here.](#)

Norway—In August, Statistics Norway will conduct the Nordic statisticians meeting. Conducted back-to-back with the meeting will be a one-day course titled "How to Design Effective Business Surveys". Instructors will be Dr. Mick Couper of University of Michigan (United States) and Gustav Haraldsen from Statistics Norway. [See the event brochure for more information and registration details.](#)

Italy—The Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) recently conducted its biannual National Conference of Statistics. The conference, which highlights the importance and strategic role of statistical information in the policy-making process and the country's governance, provided opportunities for in-depth discussion and dialogue between the various components of the National Statistical System (Sistan). This year's program was enhanced by educational initiatives offered by the new School of Statistics and social and economic analyses, in particular those dedicated to people who wish to learn more about techniques for collecting, managing and processing data. The Conference also hosted plenary sessions, roundtables discussions, and parallel sessions on various topics. Along with the "Salone della Cultura", dedicated to Istat Censuses, new forms of data visualization and statistical information for young generations, the Conference was enriched by the "Galleria BES": a "walk-through" of the exhibition on equitable and sustainable well-being and emerging set of indicators. Furthermore, the traditional "Salone dell'informazione statistica" dealt with statistical information traditionally dedicated to central and local administrations. [Video is available here.](#)

Cayman Islands—The Cayman Islands National Statistical Coordination Committee (NSCC) was launched April 18 during a ceremony in Grand Cayman. The NSCC launch is part of the Cayman Islands' celebration

of the International Year of Statistics. The ceremony highlight was the keynote address of the Honorable Premier, Mrs. Juliana Connor-Connolly. “It is high time to have a NSCC in the Cayman Islands Government,” she remarked. She noted that in many countries, public-sector agencies with functional statistical units or personnel engaged in the collection of data are formally linked together as a national statistical system. The NSCC seeks to foster closer relations among statistical units of departments and ministries to achieve consistency in methodology, definitions and standards as well as efficiency in the use of technical and human resources.

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 | • Indonesian |
| • Czech | • Italian |
| • Dutch | • Portuguese (Portugal) |
| • Euskara (Basque) | • Russian |
| • English | • Spanish (Mexico) |
| • French | • Swedish |
| • German | • 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.

Official Statistics2013 Logos

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 [35 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.

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.