NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF STATISTICS

IN THIS ISSUE:

FIRST BIG DATA ANALYSIS MASTER'S IN CHINA IS CREATED

By Professors Yanyun Zhao, Xiaoling Lu and Jianxin Yin, Renmin University School of Statistics

Five universities in China have jointly created a Big Data Analysis Master's program in Beijing. This new program will take advantage of statistics, computer science, economics and management courses offered by the participating institutions. Those universities are Renmin University of China, Peking University, University of Chinese Academy of Science, Central University of Finance and Economics, and Capital University of Economics and Business.

The inaugural Big Data Analysis Master's class consists of 56 students coming from each of the five universities. All the students graduated from their respective university with distinction, are interested in Big Data analysis and decided to contribute to this field.

Professor Yang Liu, the dean of the School of Statistics and Mathematics at the Central University of Finance and Economics, hosted a kick-off ceremony September 13. Guests included deans; chief professors and scholars from the participating universities; and the leaders and experts from 18 internship companies. At the ceremony, Professor Liming Wang, deputy president of Renmin University, spoke about the great importance of the Big Data analysis program. He expressed hoped the class not only broke a new path on the cross of computer science and statistics, but also set an example for the cultivation of the new master's program, which is promoted by the Ministry of Education.

The Big Data Analysis Master's program, which is an open platform that meets the demands of training talents in analyzing Big Data in government departments and enterprise, is set up as one platform combining politics, industries, education and research.

Twenty-five cooperative corporations participate in the opening ceremony, including: People's Daily, the Xinhua News Agency, CCTV, China Mobile, China Unicom, China Telecom, the Handset Media Professional Committee, SAS (Beijing) Corporation, the Industry Innovation Institute of HuaWen Media, All China Marketing Research and Dragon Letter Data(Beijing), Corporation Computer Network Information Center of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China Academy of Chinese Medical Science, China Association of International Trade, China National Center For Food Safety and Risk Assessment, BIStone(Beijing) Corporation, StatSoft(Beijing) Information Technology Corporation, Sunsoft Corporation, JD 360 E-Commerce Corporation, Beijing Uniquedu Technology Corporation, The Big Data Industrial Alliance of China National Zhongguancun Science Park, iRearch, Beijing Baidu Technology Corporation, and Alibaba.

The participation of these corporations demonstrates there is a big need in China for educating talented students to analyze Big Data. To intensify the combination between the professors and experts in practical sectors, 26 professional experts were appointed as supervisors of the Big Data Analysis Master's class at the opening ceremony.

The educational goal of this program is to meet the growing need for Big Data analysis to make scientific decisions in government and enterprises by creating core competencies that will enable the students to discover knowledge and values from large data efficiently.

The core of the program is statistical analysis and data-mining techniques. There are six compulsory courses and teachers from the five participating schools will teach these courses. The key point of each compulsory course is the intersection of statistics and computer science. Its focus is to foster the practical ability of the students to detect values in Big Data using necessary computing skills, programming skills, statistical modeling and data mining capability.

A teaching team of at least five teachers will be appointed for each course. The teaching teams consist of national 1,000-plan scholars, Changjiang scholars, and winners of national outstanding youth and

young and middle-age scholars who have accomplished great achievement in the research and application of Big Data analysis.

HOW DO YOU USE SOCIAL MEDIA?

By [Andrew Clark](), Head of Social Media, United Kingdom Office for National Statistics

Here at the Office for National Statistics, we have had a positive experience using social media for the last few years, with [Twitter]() being the most successful and quickest way of getting out statistics and relevant links to our website. We enjoy very open dialogue with all our users, who range from data experts to enquiring citizens.

A recent [review of the last nine month's tweets]() has shown some interesting patterns of our users' likes and dislikes as well as things we've tested such as repeat daily reporting and tweeting along to [TV programmes containing our content]().

More broadly [we've learnt that images help content]() (ideally well-designed infographics, but Excel charts also have done well) and interactive content works even better. But more importantly is the content itself that has to be interesting and [written for social media]().

We have a small group of [statisticians who tweet]() and while it is still early days for us, it's proving very effective and an area we're looking to expand.

[Facebook]() also is working better for ONS than previously. We recognise that it isn't really the place for dry statistics and content that works best must be [human]() or [entertaining](). But [Facebook does have good Q&A functionality.]()

The insight that social media allows is really powerful and informs all the decisions we make with engagement in the content and the traffic driven to our site being much more important to us than the numbers of likes or followers.

So, a lot of successes but still a very long way to go! How do you use social media?

DOIN' STATISTICS

Grammy-winning artist Marc Cohn's 1991 hit, "Walking in Memphis," gave University of Texas at El Paso's Lawrence Lesser the vehicle to reflect on what it was like discovering our discipline. Following are the lyrics he wrote:

Took all this college math—math that they call pure.
I thought I'd do a lot with it, but now I'm just not sure.

Sir Ronald A. Fisher, won't you look down over me:
What class can I take now that will set my thinking free?
Then I was doin' statistics—I was workin' with numbers I could see!
Doin' statistics—now I really feel I found my field!

Learned of randomizing and hypothesis testing, too—
All around me, illuminating polls and studies in the news.
I really loved the challenge; it was a fun kind of hard.
Loved the variety "to play in everybody's yard"!
I was doin' statistics—I was workin' with data I could see:
Doin' statistics—now I really feel I found my field!

They've got all these big computers
For big data in the air
Reverend Bayes will be glad to see you
When you haven't got a prior …
Boy, you've got a prior for statistics!

Muriel's tasting tea and Student's brewin' up some beer;
George Gallup and Nate Silver made elections clear.
What Billy Beane did for baseball, how Pandora finds tunes I like:
You say, "Tell me, are you a Bayesian?" I say, "Man, I am tonight!"
I was doin' statistics—I was workin' with data I could see:
Doin' statistics—more degrees of feelin' free!

So glad I found my path, a career with such allure:
Maybe the best part is I never have to say I'm sure!
Maybe the best part is I can quantify how I'm unsure …

Lyrics © 2013 Lawrence M. Lesser (reprinted with permission)

THE WORLD OF STATISTICS 2014 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Following are The World of Statistics participating organization-sponsored events and activities around the world for the remainder of October. To see the complete list of activities for 2014, click here.

- **October 8-10, 2014** — 2014 IAOS Conference, International Association For Official Statistics, DaNang, Vietnam
- **October 10, 2014** — A Biometry Day (Um Dia de Biometria); Universidade Estadual Paulista (Unesp) and PPG Biometria, Botucatu, Brazil
- **October 12-15, 2014** — PhUSE Annual Conference 2014, Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange (PhUSE), London, United Kingdom
- **October 14, 2014** — Second Meeting on Big Data and Statistics, Catalan Statistical Society, Barcelona, Spain

- **October 15, 2014** — [Towards the Banking Union: Opportunities and Challenges for Statistics](); European Central Bank; Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- **October 15, 2014** — [Modeling the Effect of Age in Human Performance featuring Dick De Veaux](), SAS Institute, London, United Kingdom
- **October 15-31, 2014** — [Disclosure of the Importance of Statistics in Mozambique](), Association of Statisticians of Mozambique, Maputo, Mozambique
- **October 16, 2014** — [Repeated Randomization and Cluster Randomized Trials](), Department of Biostatistics of the University at Buffalo School of Public Health & Health Professions, Buffalo, New York, USA
- **October 16-18, 2014** — [4th World Congress on Good Medical Research](), Medical Research Support, New York City, New York, USA
- **October 17, 2014** — [The Role of Statistics in Quality Engineering](); Philadelphia Section of ASQ and the Engineering Division of the Penn State School of Graduate Professional Studies; Malvern, Pennsylvania, USA
- **October 17, 2014** — [Analyzing Complex Survey Data with Missing Item Values](), National Institute of Statistical Sciences, Washington, D.C., USA
- **October 20-22, 2014** — [SEMANÍSTICA—Academic Week Statistics UFRGS](); Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), StatSoft South America, Dell; Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
- **October 20-23, 2014** — [CLATSE 2014 (Latin American Congress of Statistical Societies)](); Chilean Statistical Society (SOCHE), Argentinian Statistical Society (SAE) and Uruguayan Statistical Society (SUE); La Serena, Chile
- **October 21, 2014** — **VIRTUAL WORKSHOP:** [Building Better Models—Case Studies in Predictive Analysis](), SAS Institute
- **October 21-23, 2014** — [CMSS: Social Network Data–Collection and Analysis](); Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI); Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA
- **October 22, 2014** — [24 Statistical Day](), Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and Statistical Society of Slovenia, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia
- **October 22-24, 2014** — [European Forum for Geography and Statistics: Krakow Conference 2014](); European Forum for Geography and Statistics (organizer) and Central Statistical Office of Poland (host and co-organizer) with support of Eurostat; Krakow, Poland
- **October 23, 2014** — [MAA Distinguished Lecture Series featuring Victoria Stodden](), Mathematical Association of America, Washington, D.C.
- **October 23, 2014** — [Fall Chapter Meeting](), Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter of the ASA, Kansas City, Kansas, USA
- **October 23-24, 2014** — [International Scientific Conference: Globalization and Statistics](), Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
- **October 24-November 21, 2014** — **VIRTUAL COURSE:** [Predictive Analytics 1—Machine Learning Tools](), Statistics.com
- **October 28, 2014** — [Nebraska Chapter ASA Meeting](), Nebraska Chapter of the American Statistical Association, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

Following is the latest news and information from statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics:

South Africa—The University of Pretoria (UP), in collaboration with the SAS Institute in South Africa, will celebrate the "Centenary of Statistics" in South Africa October 15. This stylish, cocktail-style function will feature Narayanaswamy Balakrishan, distinguished professor of statistics at McMaster University in Canada, as special guest and speaker. Highly esteemed academics from the broader South African statistical fraternity and UP management also will attend. Pali Lehohla, South Africa's statistician general, will deliver a short address. This event will show that statistics is not only alive at UP, but also in South Africa. By placing a core emphasis on research, the event also will host the UP Department of Statistics' annual poster event, providing exposure to the research work of postgraduate students in a glamorous and research-induced setting. This event builds on the stellar International Year of Statistics 2013 event, known as the World Year of Statistics at UP 2013, hosted last October by the UP Department of Statistics, which featured Professor Michael Greenacre from Spain as special guest.

International—The International Statistical Institute (ISI) has extended the deadline for nominations for the 2015 Karl Pearson Prize for Contemporary Research Contribution to October 30. The ISI-sponsored prize recognises a research contribution that has had profound influence on statistical theory, methodology, practice or applications. The contribution must be a research article or book published within the three decades prior to January 1, 2015. The prize will be presented at the ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC) in Rio de Janeiro next July. Click here for additional information about the prize, including award criteria and the nomination form.

United Kingdom—Radical Statistics, also known as RadStats, will hold its 2015 conference—themed "Good data—Good policy?"—at Conway Hall at Red Lion Square in London March 7. Taking place during the run-up to the 2015 general election, the RadStats 2015 Conference will focus on public policy and the need for good data. The group is inviting major speakers, including members of Parliament and others. There also will be contributed papers and breakout sessions. Social events will be held the day

before and after the conference along with the RadStats AGM. Book the RadStats 2015 Conference date in your diary now. Send comments or inquiries to conf15@radstats.org.uk.

India—In alternating years, the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) organizes Mahalanobis Memorial Lectures by an eminent statistician. This year, the speaker will be Professor Sara van de Geer of ETH Zurich in Switzerland. She will deliver two talks at the ISI's Kolkata campus October 8 and 9 and another talk at its Delhi campus October 10. The topic of her lectures will be "Statistical Theory for High-Dimensional Models." Previous Mahalanobis Memorial Lectures speakers include Professors S. Karlin, T.W. Anderson, D.R. Cox, P.G. Hall, A.P. Dawid, J.O. Berger, C.F.J. Wu, I.A. Ibragimov, P. McCullagh, K.J. Worsley, U. Grenander, M.S. Keane, D. M. Titterington, Louis H.Y. Chen, and Alan E. Gelfand. Professor van de Geer is a renowned expert on statistics for high-dimensional data. In addition, she has authored several important texts, including the well-known book "Statistics for High-Dimensional Data: Methods, Theory and Applications" (co-authored with Peter Bühlmann and published by Springer in June 2011). Detailed information about Professor van de Geer's research can be found by clicking here.

China— Researchers from across China received extra insight when two staff experts from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom joined the teaching team of an international life sciences workshop in the city of Harbin.

Louise Corti, an associate director at the university's UK Data Archive, joined Andrew Harrison, a senior lecturer in Mathematical Sciences, to teach a course called "Biological Big Bytes (also known as "B3").

The course is part of an annual summer school called "Crops, Chips & Computers" ("C3"), which has been offered for seven years in cities across China.

Crops, Chips & Computers attendees and presenters.

This year's focus was on sharing best practices in applying state-of-the-art IT and computational techniques to Big Data research in the life sciences and beyond. It covered interdisciplinary science in a rapidly evolving field and brought together ideas from the fields of mathematics, bioinformatics, omics and computer sciences.

Corti joined Harrison to provide a focus on managing, documenting and publishing research data. The course ended with a practical exercise in which students published their data in a live-test repository.

Adam Carter from the Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre also presented data infrastructures, the value of databases, and tools to manipulate large data. Harrison spoke on the emergence of Big Data needs to progress science.

Local hosts from the Harbin Institute of Technology provided a welcoming environment that included tours of the northeast city, which is China's eighth most populous with almost 7 million residents.

International—The 7th Conference of the Irving Fisher Committee (IFC) on Central Bank Statistics was conducted September 4- 5 at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland. IFC is a forum of central bank economists and statisticians as well as others who want to participate in discussing statistical issues of interest to central banks. The conference topic was "Indicators to Support Monetary and Financial Stability Analysis: Data Sources and Statistical Methodologies." During the event, Zlatina Balabanova of the European Central Bank and Ruben Peter van der Helm from the Netherlands Bank were presented the IFC Award for the Best Paper Presented by a Young Statistician for their study titled "Enhancing Euro Area Capital Stock Estimates."

Zlatina Balabanova accepts her award while co-honoree Ruben Peter van der Helm (far right) looks on.

United States—Statistics Without Borders (SWB) is seeking to create partnerships with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), especially those working in the area of human rights. The American Association for the Advancement of Science On-Call Scientists is just one of the organizations with which SWB currently is working. If you know of an international or domestic NGO that needs statistical support or advice, please tell them to contact Cathy Furlong (cathy.furlong@cox.net) or Gary Shapiro (g.shapiro4@live.com). Also, SWB is seeking new members. The group is open to everyone; you do not have to be a member of the American Statistical Association to join. And, there are no dues or obligations. To get involved, click here to sign-up. Last, SWB is organizing a panel of speakers for the Pacific Sociological Association annual meeting April 1-4 in Long Beach, California. If you are

participating in a SWB project and interested in being on this panel, please contact Furlong by October 10.

United States—Statistics Without Borders (SWB) will sponsor an invited session at the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Seattle titled "Worldwide Statistics Without Borders Projects: SWB Helping Organizations Make Better Decisions." During this session, SWB members will discuss the following partnerships and projects:

- Digital Humanitarian Network, http://digitalhumanitarians.com/: the Ebola and Typhoon Haiyan projects.
- Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for African Children and Families Support (ACAFS) project in Uganda, which focuses on measuring the impact of sports programs for girls.
- The Myanmar Project, which is helping to conduct a needs-assessment and pilot study of pregnant mothers and infants in Myanmar.

Please plan to attend this JSM 2015 event. Click here for more information about SWB.

Portugal—For the fourth consecutive year, PORDATA, the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation (FFMS) and the national School Libraries Network honored the work of three students with statistics as the central thought and discussion through a contest called "Mission IPad." This annual, national contest is for secondary-level schools in the entire country and encourages cooperation among students and teachers. This year's contest participants developed works on aging and solitude, fertility, education and economic development.

Winners of the Mission IPad contest are honored at the September 29 ceremony.

Each winning student received an iPad while their teacher was presented a collection of FFMS essays. The September 29 awards ceremony was attended by a representative of the Ministry of Education, the coordinator of the School Libraries Network, director of PORDATA and president of the FFMS.

PORDATA is a public-service project whose mission is to bring statistics closer to people of all ages and foster public understanding of data. FFMS promotes study, knowledge, information and public debate as a way to contribute to the development of society, the improvement of public institutions and strengthening the rights of citizens.

Congratulations to all involved students and teachers!

Spain—The International Association for Statistical Computing- European Regional Section (IASC-ERS) summer school on CoDA, called CoDa Course 2014, was conducted July 7-11 at the University of Girona and provided an introduction to the theoretical and practical aspects of statistical analysis of compositional data (CoDa) as well as an informal discussion forum on more advanced modelling topics.

CoDa are vectors of positive components and a constant sum—usually 100% or 1. These conditions render the classical statistical techniques useless on compositions because they were devised for unbounded real vectors.

Participants in CoDa Course 2014 pose for a group photo.

The 23 participants came from different countries (i.e., United States, Germany and Croatia) and were mostly members of universities and research institutes. During the course, students received instruction on theoretical and practical CoDa techniques. Ten students presented their case studies to the rest of the participants. After some progress, the last sessions were devoted to discussing preliminary results and future research. In addition, the summer school included two invited talks: "Symbolic Data Analysis" and "Three-Way Data Analysis." In these talks, participants saw other different types of data and their possible connection with CoDA and their case study.

The organizers thank IASC-ERS for the helpful support as well as all the participants for their collaboration. Particularly, they also thank the students for their encouraging participation! They are looking forward to the students' participation in CoDa Work 2015 to learn about their findings using the CoDa approach.

United States—The 70th Deming Conference on Applied Statistics will take place at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey December 8-12. Twelve, three-hour tutorial sessions as well as a poster session will be held the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the conference. Two, two-day short courses will follow on Thursday and Friday. Books used in the tutorial sessions or the short courses will be sold at a discount at the conference. The conference will include a poster session; poster abstracts can be submitted online. For more information and to register, click here.

United Kingdom—The UK Data Service will be holding two events October 31 at the Royal Statistical Society's offices in London. Those are:

Census Research User Conference 2014—This one-day conference will provide users and data creators an opportunity to meet and discuss developments in census research. It will be composed of presentations from census agencies on developments in data and from users who have used the data in their research. Presentations will be based on analysis of 2011 and earlier census products such as aggregate tables, flow data and microdata.

Enhancing and Enriching Historic Census Microdata Event—This event will launch new census products produced by the Enhancing and Enriching Historic Census Microdata (EEHCM) project. The UK Data Service will be celebrating the completion of the first files from collaboration between the UK Data Archive, University of Essex, University of Manchester and Census Offices to recover digital files containing census records and produce microdata samples from these for 1961, 1966, 1971 and 1981. If you would like to register for this event, email Gillian Meadows with the following details: full name, department, institution, email address, and status (i.e., student, higher education staff, non-academic).

If you would like to attend both the EEHCM event and the Census Research User Conference 2014, complete the conference booking form and type EEHCM in the additional information box.

United States—The speakers have been announced for the memorial service to honor the life and contributions of Dr. Robert (Bob) Newcomb of University of California at Irvine, the founding president of Orange County Long Beach Chapter (OCLB) of the American Statistical Association (ASA) who passed away July 10. The morning memorial service will be followed by afternoon statistical presentations presented by invited renowned statisticians who developed personal and professional relationships with Newcomb. Those speakers are:

- Dr. Bob Rodriguez, senior director, SAS Research and Development
- Dr. Karen Messer, chief of the Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics of the University of California, San Diego
- Dr. Duane Steffey, director of Statistical and Data Sciences, Exponent
- Dr. Dan Nguyen, professor and director of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research of the University of California, Irvine

The November 15 event in Duarte, California is being organized by three regional ASA chapters in the southern California region: San Diego, Southern California and OCLB. All statisticians interested in

learning about or sharing Bob's legacy are invited to attend the memorial service. Further details are available on the websites of the three regional chapters.

Nigeria—Dr. Mohammed Tumala is an experienced statistician and the president of the Nigerian Statistical Association (NSA) who possesses a deep understanding of how statistical data could be used to leverage development at all sectors of national economies. Recently, after the association's 38th Annual Conference, he spoke with a select team of journalists about the state of Nigeria's statistical system and how to use it as a platform for driving sustainable national development. [Click here to read this news story in *The Sun*—a national newspaper in the country.](#)

United Kingdom— Attention developers, data visualisation designers and other innovative data lovers looking for untapped resources! Doing fun stuff with data is exciting. Using open data from the UK Data Service, non-academics can help visualise social science data in creative ways, bringing new perspectives in how to interrogate and present findings. This event will bring traditional social science data to innovators of smart phone technologies. The results could be surprising.

Join us for drinks, learn about the free and open data available from the UK Data Service, and access it via our easy-to-use application program interfaces (APIs).

This event will be held November 7 at the Open Data Institute in London. It is part of the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) Festival of Social Science and is being held in partnership with AppChallenge, a commercial consortia of open data innovators and consultants from the Open Data Institute.

Data-savvy developers will:

- Learn about the portfolio of free and open social data available from the ESRC's flagship resource, the UK Data Service
- Get guidance and advice on APIs and technical challenges from open-data consultants
- Meet and collaborate with other open-data innovators
- Share views on other sources of traditional social science data that might best benefit from becoming open

Note: Participants must be from non-higher education sectors and will be required to register with the UK Data Service for this event.

The event is for data innovators and the development community. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Spain—Following on the success of its first conference on Big Data, the Catalan Statistical Society is organizing a second conference focused on biology, physics and journalistic communication.

Big Data (or mass data) has opened a new door to the fascinating world of data and its analysis. The availability of resources and very efficient algorithms enable us to confront one of the most advanced scientific and technological challenges: orderly and systematic information from these large data stores

describe, explain and predict much of our behavior and those phenomena that surround us. With the help of data, our society can advance more quickly in all areas of research and in many sectors of the economy, enterprise and business. Because of statistics, it is possible to obtain data value: economic value and value in terms of knowledge and well-being.

During the event, participants will explore what parts of conventional statistics are useful in the world of Big Data and what parts that are currently developed in theoretical statistics apply to Big Data problems. The event will be conducted October 14 in Barcelona. Click here for more information.

Spain—You are invited to attend the "Second Virtual Conference on Teaching Statistics, Probability and Combinatorics," which is being organized by the Teaching of Statistics, Probability and Combinatorics Research Group of the Spanish Society for Research in Mathematics Education (SEIEM) and the Statistics Education Research Group of the University of Granada. The online conference will be held April 10-12.

Papers may be submitted in Spanish, Portuguese or English and will be refereed by a scientific committee. All papers will be published in electronic format using ISSN. These themes to be covered are:

- Assessment of statistical knowledge
- Assessment of probabilistic knowledge
- Assessment of combinatorial knowledge
- New technologies in the teaching of Statistics, Probability and Combinatorics
- Teaching Statistics, Probability and Combinatorics
- Resources for Teaching Statistics, Probability and Combinatorics
- Teacher education

The deadline for submitting papers is December 22. Acceptance of papers will be communicated by February 15. Papers should be emailed to comunicaciones@jvdiesproyco.es.

More information and registration is available at the conference website.

United Kingdom—The 2014 International Conference of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) was conducted in Sheffield, England September1-4.

More than 460 participants from more than 25 countries heard plenary talks from Richard Allan, Facebook; Tim Harford, BBC/Financial Times; Terry Speed, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, Australia; and Ming Yuan, University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, 30 invited sessions covered a huge range of topics including new advances in multivariate modelling, data visualisation, statistical analytics challenge, quantum statistics, statistics in sport, measuring segregation, Nightingale's legacy, checking and cleaning in Big Data, megatrends in statistics, anonymisation practices for sharing data, and who's afraid of data science.

Meanwhile, professional-development workshops covered areas such as giving a memorable presentation, an introduction to working with the media, and writing for a non-specialist audience.

There also were a record number of posters on display in the ballroom of Sheffield City Hall with the high standard of work requiring additional prizes to be awarded.

The 2014 RSS Guy medallists (from left) Jianqing Fan (silver), Brad Efron (gold)
and Ming Yuan (bronze).

The conference also featured the Society's annual awards ceremony, which included the presentation of the prestigious Guy Medal in Gold to Brad Efron as well as awards for statistical excellence in areas of official statistics, the pharmaceutical industry and journalism.

Next year's RSS conference will take place in Exeter, South-West England September 7-10; information about the event will be available on the RSS website.

United States—The Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) recently conducted two training sessions at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, located nearby its Research Triangle, North Carolina offices. A summary of each session follows:

- [The Beyond Bioinformatics Opening Workshop](#), held September 8-12, may have broken a SAMSI attendance record with 209 participants. Presentations were made Monday through Thursday and many working groups were formed that will collaborate on a specific topic throughout the academic year.
- More than 100 participants attended the [Mathematical and Statistical Ecology Opening Workshop](#) August 18-22. Leading applied mathematicians, statisticians, ecologists and others presented. Many of the presentations are available on the [SAMSI website](#). Several were videotaped and will also be posted to the website soon.

Iran—In order to promote the science of statistics and familiarize high-school students with statistics and its applications, a workshop titled "Two Weeks with Statistics" was held August 10-19 at the Isfahan Mathematics House. Six topics in applied statistics for first- and second-year high-school students were presented. These topics included "Introduction to Experimental Design and Application of Statistical Techniques in the Design" and "Conducting a Simple Test Project." The students also were engaged in probability games. The objective of this workshop was to create interest and motivation in studying statistics, undertaking continuing education, and using statistics among the students.

NATIONAL STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION: NEWS & EVENTS

Following is the latest news and information from national statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics:

Indonesia—Every September 26, Statistics Indonesia celebrates National Statistics Day. This year, the agency celebrated with a leisurely march in Jakarta the next day. Nearly 2,000 people, including agency employees and their family members, marched under the slogan "Data Educates the Nation."

The head of Statistics Indonesia, Mr. Suryamin (fourth from left front row), participates in the National Statistics Day march with other agency employees.

SHARE YOUR NEWS & EVENTS THROUGH THE WORLD OF STATISTICS

Tell your colleagues in the worldwide statistical community and the public about your organization's events through The World of Statistics 2014 Activities Calendar. Now, you can submit your organization's 2015 events for next year's calendar, which will be posted to the site soon.

Using this brief webform, it's easy to submit information about your 2014 0r 2015 event so it is added to the activities calendar for all to see.

After your event is over, you can send us a story about it for this e-newsletter. We have developed this easy-to-use webform you can use to submit your event stories and other news about your organization's activities to promote and advance the statistical science profession. These event stories and news items will be featured in an upcoming issue of this e-newsletter.

Send us your calendar and news items now!

JOIN THE WORLD OF STATISTICS

If your organization or an organization you know of isn't yet part of The World of Statistics, encourage them to join. Joining is easy—just ask a representative of the group go to www.worldofstatistics.org and click on the "Join" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official participating organization in The World of Statistics. Participation is valuable and is absolutely free!

THE WORLD OF STATISTICS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Now that the new website for The World of Statistics is up and running, we need your help. You can help move The World of Statistics website up in the list of Internet search results by linking to the new website address—www.worldofstatistics.org—from your organization's website and replacing the old Statistics2013 logo with the new logo for The World of Statistics and linking it to the new website. You can download the new logo here.

See how the United States National Center for Education Statistics is displaying The World of Statistics logo on its website (go to bottom of the homepage). Kudos to Andrew White, NCES Senior Research Statistician Statistical Standards and Data Confidentiality, for sharing the link with us and, more importantly, for posting the logo.

Some other things your organization can do to help the cause include:

1. Update existing links to www.statistics2013.org on your website so that these point to www.worldofstatistics.org
2. Change all references to Statistics2013 on your website to The World of Statistics and link to the new website (www.worldofstatistics.org)
3. Change your Facebook page information, links and logos so that these reference The World of Statistics. Also, share information about and publicize The World of Statistics on your organization's social media accounts, including Facebook and Twitter

4. Post a version of The World of Statistics logo in your language on your organization's website. [We currently have nine language versions available for download.](#) To request a language-customized logo, email the following information in a PDF document to Jeff Myers at jeffrey@amstat.org:
    a. The interpretation in your language of: "The World of Statistics"
    b. The interpretation in your language of: "Participating Organization"
5. If you have a linked Statistics2013 banner on your organization's website, please remove it and replace it with a new banner for The World of Statistics and link the new banner to www.worldofstatistics.org. [You can download these new banners here.](#)
6. The World of Statistics Twitter account is @astatworld. Start following us today. Be sure to retweet our tweets and also mention The World of Statistics—hashtag #TWOS—in your tweets.
7. If your website has content about Statistics2013, please delete it and replace it with [copy about The World of Statistics](#).
8. As you did with Statistics2013, include mentions of The World of Statistics in all your organization's online communications.

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