

**EXPRESS YOUR
OPINION**

Dear Colleagues,

The upcoming year 2000 applied symposium and the 5th international conference of 2001 are sponsored by the ICSA. We'd like to notify you ahead of time and encourage your involvement by contacting the chairs of the corresponding events or by sharing your research findings with the members. Your suggestions / comments are welcomed. More details inside

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**Get involved in the next
issue by email your articles
to the Editorial Board at**

WANGS@CDER.FDA.GOV

EDITOR'S PAGE

Statistics In Everyday Culture

On the edge of the new millennium, we are aware of the need to integrate statistics into everyday life. As Bradley Efron (1998) put it, “statistical thinking and methodology have become the scientific framework for literally dozens of fields, including education, agriculture, economics, biology and medicine,” we recognize that life as we know it today will be much more meaningful and manageable with the use of statistics. One mission is to gradually blend statistical concepts into our daily language so that the non-statistician can also appreciate and apply. Therefore, we have created a “Special Topic” section in each issue of the Bulletin, which features statistics applied to a specific science discipline.

In this issue, application of statistics in seismology was chosen to be the special topic column. Last year, the 921 quake in Taiwan took many lives and left hundreds of thousands homeless. One of the major difficulties in earthquake research is prediction of epicenter. We were delighted that Dr. Wang (王錦華), an expert research statistician in seismology, could help us grasp the statisticians' role in short and long term earthquake prediction including the vicinity of epicenter and the timing and the size of the quake. Other related reports were contributed from Dr. Chen-Hai Andy Tsao and Dr. Lung-An Li.

We asked representatives from academia to reflect on their experiences as statisticians. In “統計已死，統計萬歲！” Dr. Chao (趙民德) emphasizes the importance for a statistician to take the leadership role.

We also added a couple of humorous anecdotes in the new section Statistics' Delight. Like the Chinese saying goes: cast a brick to attract jade, we hope the anecdotes of this issue will inspire you to share similar experiences in your daily lives, bringing a bit of humor to all of our readers.

The vision of the New Editorial Board is to continue good traditions and to further enrich non-technical publications. Other suggestions such as including a special corner of controversial statistical issue for non-technical discussion and useful statistical web-links may be implemented in the issues to come. We encourage your submissions to help make our Bulletin fruitful.

Finally, on behalf of the Editorial Board of the ICSA Bulletin, I would like to thank Dr. Karl Lin, the former Editor-in-chief, Dr. Tar T. Chen, the Past President (1999) and Dr. Chien-Pai Han, the President, during the preparation of the Bulletin.

Sue-Jane Wang

Editor-in-chief

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ICSA Members:

I am honored to serve as the president in the year of 2000. The general feeling is that everything seems to be starting anew. But many good things will remain unchanged. For ICSA the tradition of serving members will remain the same. *Statistica Sinica* remains as our official journal. The Applied Statistics Symposium will be held every year. We will have the ICSA International Conference every two or three years. And, of course, we will have our famous and delicious banquets at the Symposium and Joint Statistical Meetings every year.

While good old traditions will remain, new services will be initiated as time goes on. In 1999 the Board of Directors established the new Book and Journal Donation Committee. Professor Timothy Chen, our Past President, is the Chair of this committee. He will serve as a matchmaker between the donors and needy academic or research organizations. If any ICSA member has books or journals to donate, please contact Professor Chen.

The success of our Association depends on our membership. Recruiting new members is a priority. This year Dr. Tzu-Cheg Kao is the Chair of the Membership Committee. Dr. Kao volunteered to serve on a committee and agreed to serve as the Chair. I increased the number of members in this committee to broaden the scope of recruiting. In order to attract new members, we must advertise the services of our Association. These include subscription to our world-class journal *Statistica Sinica*, presenting papers in the Applied Statistics Symposium and International Conference and interacting with other members. Perhaps another service we may consider is to establish a data bank. Many of us have the experience of submitting a paper for publication, and having the referee to ask us to provide a real example for the new theory or methodology we propose. It would be a very useful service for our members if such a data bank of real examples is constructed. If you have any new ideas, please notify me or any member of the Board of Directors.

This year the Applied Statistics Symposium will be held in New Jersey. I hope that you plan to participate in the Symposium. Also please continue your support and submit your papers to *Statistica Sinica*. The term of our Executive Director, Dr. Naitee Ting, will end this December. Please consider a nomination for this important position, and send your nomination to Dr. Chao Agnes Hsiung, President-elect and Chair of the Search Committee.

I wish you a Happy New Year and Prosperous New Millennium.

Chien-Pai Han
President

**Special
Announcement
from
Editorial
Board**

The Editorial Board would like to consider one more volunteer for the Editorial Working Committee. If you have a new idea and are interested in joining us, please send your C.V. including your plan to the Editorial Board WANGS@CDER.FDA.GOV for consideration.

We encourage your active involvement in the ICSA Bulletin. Every effort counts.



