

ENBIS-7 in Dortmund: Call for Papers

Deadline for abstract submissions is April 30th, notifications of acceptance will be made per e-mail no later than May 31st.

As you know, ENBIS-7 will take place in Dortmund (Germany) from September 24th to 26th, 2007. It will offer the ENBIS membership another great platform for exchange of ideas.



Friedensplatz in Dortmund
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Are you interested in discussing the challenges and/or results of your work with the expert audience? ENBIS invites presentations from a wide range of applications: industry, manufacturing, administration, marketing, sales, risk management, logistics, and service. Contributions about innovative applications that have made an impact on the overall success of the respective business or industry are especially welcome.

Topics that historically have received much attention at ENBIS conferences are:

- Design of experiments.
- Data mining/warehousing.
- General statistical modelling.
- Measurement uncertainty.
- Non-clinical pharma.
- Operational risk management.
- Process modelling and control.
- Quality improvement.
- Reliability and safety.
- Statistical consultancy.
- Teaching statistics.

Contributors should submit a title and a brief abstract of 250 words by April 30th using the on-line form at www.enbis.org.

Notifications of acceptance will be made per e-mail no later than May 31st.

Authors of accepted abstracts will have to submit their paper or presentation before September 1st.

A special issue of QREI featuring selected conference papers is scheduled to be published in 2008.

Workshop on Business Analysis in Dortmund

A Workshop on Business Analysis will be part of the ENBIS-7 conference in Dortmund.

This workshop is based on some of the work of more than 200 final-year and postgraduate business students who have been employed in various organisations during their placement year or full-time employment. Aspects of this workshop have been used in a number of consultancies to major organisations.

A day long session will run through identifying business issues, Kano analysis, setting targets, and a simulated Quality Function Deployment exercises on a company.

Participants will contribute by taking roles in the company and customer base. Registered participants will receive notes in advance so that they can better understand the roles they may wish to take.

The registration fee covering cost of notes and organisation is 50 EUR for ENBIS members.

For regular updates on the 7th ENBIS conference visit the ENBIS webpage:

www.enbis.org

Other Upcoming Events

ENBIS course on simulation, a joint effort with the Technical University of Denmark, will take place in Lyngby (Denmark) in May 2007. For more information visit www.matstat.umu.se/indstat/Simulering/index.htm.

The **MMR (Mathematical Methods in Reliability) conferences** serve as a forum for mathematicians, probabilists, statisticians, and computer scientists discussing fundamental issues of mathematical methods in reliability theory and its applications. The upcoming MMR conference will be held at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow (UK) from July 1st to 4th (visit www.mmr2007.org for more details). The ENBIS-organised **Case Study Workshop on Reliability** will take place in the afternoon of July 1st, 2007, prior to the beginning of MMR2007. Workshop session 1 will focus on stochastic modelling of cylinder liners wear in a marine diesel engine. Workshop session 2 will be dedicated to the topics of reliability and variation. Detailed abstracts and information on speakers, programme, goals, and fees are available on the workshop page at www.enbis.org along with the on-line registration form.

A joint **ICDM (Industrial Conference on Data Mining)-MLDM (Machine Learning and Data Mining) 2007 conference** will take place in Leipzig (Germany) from July 14th to 18th. Visit www.data-mining-forum.de for more information.

In August 2007, the ENBIS-sponsored **2007 ISBIS meeting** will take place at the University of Azores (Portugal). In the framework of the **ENBIS session**, Andrea Ahlemeyer-Stubbe, Irena Ograjenšek, and Fabrizio Ruggeri will present papers on their work in the field of business statistics. See www.isbis2007.uac.pt for more details.

ENBIS Academic Publications Panel

We are pleased to inform you that we received the first submissions to the **ENBIS Academic Publications Panel**, established with the goal of helping ENBIS members who want to publish in academic journals with feedback and directions. If interested in obtaining help from our highly esteemed panelists, please contact Irena Ograjenšek, the Managing Director of the panel, per e-mail (irena.ograjensek@ef.uni-lj.si).

ENBIS in Africa

Anne De Frenne and Fabrizio Ruggeri report from the SADA'07 conference.

International Conference on Applied Statistics for Development in Africa took place in Cotonou (Benin) from 26th February to 2nd March 2007 (see <http://lma.univ-pau.fr/meet/sada2007/> for more details). The conference was attended by people from North and West Africa as well as many French applied statisticians. It was endorsed by ENBIS and Ron Kenett, the President of ENBIS, served as a member of the Programme Committee.

The conference presented a perfect opportunity for promoting ENBIS ideas and goals.

Anne gave three workshops on SPC and an invited lecture on the same topic. Workshop attendees were particularly interested in practical aspects of SPC application from the viewpoint of practical problems they are facing in their industrial and business reality. Several contacts were established in the framework of these workshops and Anne is currently looking into possibilities of running similar workshops elsewhere in Africa as well as Europe.

Fabrizio delivered a plenary lecture on Bayesian methods in industrial statistics. Both Bayesian methods and industrial statistics were relatively unknown to most of the conference participants who

showed great interest in learning more about the topics. Possibilities of future cooperation in the fields of reliability and telecommunication networks were discussed.

We got to know more about statistical research in Africa and were pleasantly surprised by its quality. Researchers presented papers on both methodological and applied topics such as poverty, malaria disease, use of natural resources, fisheries, urban development, and nutrition. Although basic needs of the African population were given most attention, there was also interest in advanced technological topics such as telecommunications.

Participants from African countries decided to hold the SADA conference biannually. The next one should thus take place in 2009 in Dakar (Senegal). At the same time, they are planning to establish a pan-African statistical association. As representatives of ENBIS we expressed interest for future cooperation between ENBIS and the proposed pan-African organisation.

Anne De Frenne & Fabrizio Ruggeri

ESRA 2007 in Prague

Deadline for abstract submissions is May 1st.

The European Survey Research Association (ESRA) has been established to provide coordination in the field of survey research in Europe. Through its activities it encourages communication between substantive researchers, methodologists, and statisticians working in the field of survey research. The first conference was held in Barcelona (Spain) in 2005 with more than 300 participants from many different countries. The second conference will be hosted by the University of Economics in Prague and the Czech Statistical Office. It will take place from 25th to 29th June. The topics of interest to members of ENBIS are numerous, e.g. data analysis, measurement of service quality, sampling, nonresponse, etc. Please visit <http://esra2007.vse.cz/home/> for more details.

DOE Survey

Despite efforts by specialists in quality and statistics, DoE has yet to be applied as widely as it could and should be. Consequently, TECNUN (University of Navarra) from Spain encourages ENBIS members to fill out a brief (5-10 minutes) survey that tries to identify the barriers preventing a widespread use of DoE among engineers. The barriers, detected from a vast bibliographic review, were grouped and reduced to sixteen.

The on-line survey can be accessed at <http://examinador.tecnun.es/mtanco/encuesta.asp>. Further information can be obtained per e-mail: mtanco@tecnun.es.

Young Statisticians' Corner

Interested in PhD or MSc Studentships in Statistics at the Department of Statistics, University of Glasgow (UK)?

If yes, note that funding is available for up to three PhD studentships. These include:

- A three and a half year studentship funded jointly by Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland, the Macaulay Institute and the University of Glasgow. The project will be based at the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen and is directed towards statistical methods for evidence-based evaluation of effects of climate change in environmental time series.
- A four year teaching assistant position which combines study for a PhD on a topic in any area of the Department's interests, with some teaching duties on introductory undergraduate courses.

In addition, the Department offers a one year MSc degree by research. Up to five funded studentships are currently available.

Enquiries and applications should be directed to Prof. Stephen Senn (e-mail: stephen@stats.gla.ac.uk).



ENBIS Legends: Dave Stewardson

Shirley Coleman provides us with insights into life and work of one of the prominent ENBIS visionaries.

Dave Stewardson was President of ENBIS in the academic year 2001/02. He is probably widest known for setting up pro-ENBIS, the European Framework 5 Thematic Network which brought together partners from all over Europe and really established ENBIS as the strong, broad network that it is today.

Dave was one of the visionary people who saw the importance of ENBIS right from the start. He attended the first official meeting in Amsterdam in 2000. I went along with him and was equally impressed by his understanding of the newly launched network's potential as well as his continual and focused networking activity. He networked all the time, not even taking a break to admire the fantastic canals outside the meeting room.

Not only Dave's networking skills but also his proposal writing skills are legendary. At one point he managed to win 30 of the 33 project proposals he had written. His writing skills had been developed through an unusual collection of work experiences before he joined the Industrial Statistics Research Unit (ISRU) at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1995.

He and his wife, Jackie, had run a successful pub in London, but that was evidently not challenging enough for him. To absorb his boundless energy, Dave began to advise people objecting to planning proposals.

He defended and won many small claims cases but eventually took on a multi-millionaire property tycoon and was vapourised. He then changed direction and worked with his customary manic dedication to gain a first class degree in statistics from Northumbria University.

Dave was the Director of ISRU from 1997 to 2003. He was great fun to work with. He had the most unusual ability to combine diplomacy and gifted proposal writing with a deep and lively interest in the subject itself. He wrote papers and conference abstracts continually and was always full of ideas.

Dave excelled in galvanising people into action whenever he would spot a great opportunity. At the same time he was very light hearted and humorous. With his extensive store of incredible tales he was great fun to travel with – and the many European projects he won for ISRU involved a lot of travel which was both very exciting and very tiring, for example our six visits to Wrocław (Poland) in 2003.

Dave should have had many more years as a promoter of business and industrial statistics in practice and general stirrer, but was taken ill in 2003. He has retired from the University but is still active, playing a lot of chess, and enjoying the time with his family.

Shirley Coleman



Shirley, Dave and Jackie Stewardson at the pro-ENBIS dinner in Newcastle (December 2004).

A Note from the Editor

I'm very happy to note that my invitation to take the pen to paper published in the previous issue of *ENBIS News* generated a very good response from our members.

Contributors to this issue (in alphabetical order) are: Andrea Ahlemeyer-Stubbe, Shirley Coleman, Anne De Frenne, Chris Mccollin, Ron S. Kenett, Fabrizio Ruggeri, Ingemar Sjöström, and Winfried Theis.

I would like to thank them for their effort and repeat the invitation in hope it will generate a similar or an even larger response: let the ENBIS community know what has been going on in your professional environment. We're especially interested in funding initiatives similar to *pro-ENBIS*, activities of special interest groups (SIGs), as well as everything that transpires in the framework of our local networks.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Irena Ograjenšek
ENBIS News Editor

ENBIS News Publishing Info

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Ideas for news items should be sent to the editor per e-mail, preferably as an MS Word document.