

## Letter from the President

Andrea Ahlemeyer-Stubbe gives the latest news on Council and Exec activities.

Six months after our last ENBIS conference in Dortmund many would agree that ENBIS is in a better shape than ever.

We successfully completed the transfer of responsibilities from the former Director of ENBIS Permanent Office and Treasurer Ronald Does to the new Director of ENBIS Permanent Office, Alessandro di Bucchianico, and the new Treasurer, Anja Schleppe. Allow me to thank Ronald Does, one of the founding fathers of ENBIS, for his services and dedication to our organisation. We all hope he will remain one of our most active members.

The process of transition was much more complicated and bureaucratic than originally anticipated. However, it was also an opportunity for us to create a new, simplified transition procedure in order to make the future transition processes easier and faster.

The ENBIS Permanent Office moved from Amsterdam to Eindhoven as a consequence of transition. The new address of the Permanent Office can be found on the last page of this newsletter issue under the »ENBIS News Publishing Info« title.

At the end of February 2008, ENBIS had three accounts at the ABN-AMRO bank, holding in total a sum of EUR 90.775,69. A formal hand-over audit was carried out by Shirley Coleman and Anne De Frenne. Their report will be published on the ENBIS website.

Finally, you probably noticed the new corporate look of ENBIS. The idea to

create a new logo and a matching corporate look was born in the process of rebuilding the ENBIS website. After a lively discussion of seven logo alternatives (one old and six new ones) Exec preselected the three most acceptable ones and asked the Council for a vote.



The alternative C received the majority of votes and officially became the new ENBIS logo. This gave the webdesigners the opportunity to create a fresh and dazzling look for the ENBIS website. I would like to use this opportunity for thanking Winfried Theis, John Logsdon, and the ZEDCORE team for an excellent job.

However, the majority of work is still ahead of us. We need your support to fill the new structure with content. We would like to put together a team to be in charge of the website content. The responsibility for web content maintenance should not be a burden on a single person's shoulders.

If you wish to become a team member contact me at [a.ahlemeyer@antz21.de](mailto:a.ahlemeyer@antz21.de). Please do not hesitate if English is not your mother tongue. For many of us it isn't but that shouldn't prevent us from creating an exciting website that members and non-members will like to visit!

## ENBIS-8 in Athens (Greece)

The eighth annual conference of ENBIS will be hosted by the Department of Statistics at the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB) from September 22nd to 24th, 2008.

The conference sessions along with the workshops will be held in the historic building of AUEB located in downtown Athens and easily accessible by metro. The conference dinner will take place at one of the best restaurants in Athens with a breathtaking view of Acropolis.

The Scientific Committee was hard pressed to come up with a program worthy of the overwhelming conference setting. However, we are pretty confident that our keynote speakers Emmanuel Yashquin (IBM Research) and Doug Montgomery (Arizona State University), as well as the interesting pre- and post-conference workshops and courses will keep you off the nearby beaches.

You can choose among the following workshops and courses:

- »Statistical Leadership – from Consultant to Effective Leader« by Roger Hoerl;
- »Statistics in Innovation and the Design Process« by Shirley Coleman and Tony Fouweather;
- The »Consultancy Skills« course by Roland Caulcutt;
- »New Methods in Experimental Design and How to Use Them« by Doug Montgomery and Bradley Jones.

However, this is not all we have in store for our conference participants:

- David Steinberg is organizing an ISBIS session on »Networking Statistics«;
- Irad Ben Gal is organizing an INFORMS QSR session;
- Irena Ograjenšek will moderate a round table discussion with eminent ENBIS Academic Publications Panel members.

On top of it all come awards ceremonies, in-conference workshops, interesting papers and a lot of time for networking.

The official call for papers along with all the relevant information on accommodation and travel is available at the ENBIS website ([www.enbis.org](http://www.enbis.org)).

We're looking forward to seeing you in Athens!

Winfried Theis  
Chair of ENBIS-8 Scientific Committee

## New ENBIS Website

Winfried Theis, the ENBIS Webmaster, describes the process behind the launch of the new ENBIS website and invites you to help improving it.

At the Dortmund conference in September 2008 the ENBIS Council decided to make another attempt at getting our most important tool up to speed: our website. My first attempt to do so by using the CMS TYPO3 was bound to fail, because I'm a statistician not a web-programmer or designer.

We started by going back to the requirements John Logsdon and myself had already developed before launching the first (failed) attempt. Based on a revised version of these requirements a call for tender was published. It was won by ZEDCORE as they gave not just the most comprehensive offer, but also a very well priced one.

Since we did not just want to get a new technical backbone, which would be serviced by professionals, but also a new page design, a web-design agency was sub-contracted by ZEDCORE. As you already know they came up with a new logo. Based on this logo they created a new layout and design for our website.

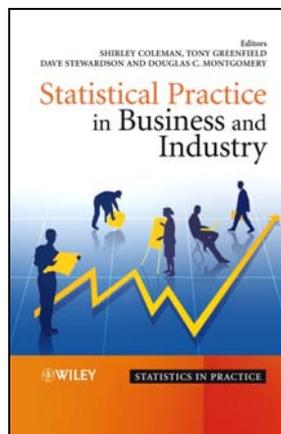


Initially, you will be able to use the new event management system to submit your abstracts and papers for the ENBIS-8 conference in Athens, but also to enroll for pre- and post-conference workshops and to pay the conference fee. In time, the whole web content will be moved into the new system and we hope you will help us expand the ENBIS Web Archive by sending us photos and your personal reports from the past ENBIS events as well as by sharing your favourite links to statistical resources online. You are also cordially invited to e-mail your comments and suggestions for website improvement to [webmaster@enbis.org](mailto:webmaster@enbis.org).

## Arrival of the pro-ENBIS Book

Shirley Coleman announces the arrival of »Statistical Practice in Business and Industry«, published by Wiley in March 2008.

This long awaited book, edited by Shirley Coleman, Tony Greenfield, Dave Stewardson and Doug Montgomery, arose from the work carried out by members of ENBIS strengthened by a three year thematic network called pro-ENBIS funded by the European Commission.



throughout the world. The first part of the book deals with statistical consultancy including process improvement and six sigma initiatives, which seek to implement statistical methods and tools in businesses and industry. Chapters on management statistics and service quality are followed by data mining. The important area of process modelling is dealt with in two chapters followed by some fundamental areas of statistics, including designing experiments, multivariate analysis and simulation.

The book covers methodology and techniques currently in use and those about to be launched and includes references to miscellaneous sources of information including web-sites. No book on statistical practice would be complete without giving due time and attention to communication. The last chapter is dedicated to this most important part of statistical practice.

Statistical methods are applied widely in industry, particularly in manufacturing processes, to provide authoritative methods for quality control and thus improve productivity and efficiency. The various methods range from graphical approaches to generalised modelling, and from designed experiments to process control. *Statistical Practice in Business and Industry* presents the latest advances in the application of statistical and optimisation methods within modern industry, alongside more established methods. Methods are demonstrated across a wide range of real-life applications from fields including finance, e-commerce, micro-electronics, chemical and automotive engineering, component assembly, household goods and plastics manufacturing. Each topic is investigated by an expert in that field, facilitating a comprehensive understanding of how statistical methods benefit business and industry.

The aim of the book is to promote the wider understanding and application of contemporary and emerging statistical methods. The book is aimed at people working in business and industry worldwide. It can be used for the professional development of statistical practitioners (using the ENBIS definition, a statistical practitioner is any person using statistical methods whether formally trained or not) and to foster best practice for the benefit of business and industry.

Pro-ENBIS was an innovative 3 year project set up by Dave Stewardson in 2002. There were a total of 37 partners from 18 countries and the project was co-ordinated by Newcastle University.

It was the fervent hope of the participants that the excellent work carried out in the project could be captured for posterity by publishing a book. The book was a natural consequence of the vibrant and productive three year working partnership between many of the foremost players in the field of practical statistics. Contributions for the book have been volunteered from each of the pro-ENBIS work package leaders and from most of the other project partners and members. Many of the contributions are collaborative efforts not only ensuring that the subjects covered are dealt with from more than one perspective, but also carrying on the initial drive of the project in promoting collaborations to further the subject as a whole. The resulting book provides a thorough overview of the state of the art in business and industrial statistics.

The subject areas are dealt with in a logical manner, starting with a brief overview of the history of industrial statistics, before tackling a variety of subjects which have become vital to many areas of business and industry

## Two Interesting New e-Newsletters

- New »Data Mining and Predictive Analytics e-Newsletter« focused on practical matters and designed to help data miners in day-to-day tasks can be subscribed by sending an e-mail to [editor@salford-systems.com](mailto:editor@salford-systems.com). Use the same e-mail address to suggest relevant topics for future issues.
- A new free electronic monthly newsletter, the »Clinical Trial Magnifier«, can be subscribed at <http://www.clinicaltrialmagnifier.com>. Any queries can be sent to [editorialboard@clinicaltrialmagnifier.com](mailto:editorialboard@clinicaltrialmagnifier.com).

Read the ASQ

Statistics Division Newsletter:

<http://www.asqstatdiv.org/documents/newsletters/Fall07StatDiv.pdf>

## Member News

Johannes Ledolter (University of Iowa) and Arthur J. Swersey (Yale University) recently finished a book entitled »Testing 1 – 2 – 3: Experimental Design with Applications in Marketing and Service Operations«. The book was published by Stanford University Press. Further information can be found online at [www.sup.org/book.cgi?book\\_id=5612](http://www.sup.org/book.cgi?book_id=5612).

## Introducing INFORMS

INFORMS is an abbreviation for the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences. It has a Quality Statistics and Reliability Section which will sponsor a panel discussion in the framework of ENBIS-8 in Athens. Visit <http://qsr.section.informs.org> for more information.

## Upcoming Events

- The **2008 Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology** will take place in Atlanta (USA) from May 19th to 21st. For details and to register visit <http://www2.isye.gatech.edu/src2008>.
- The **Quality&Productivity Research Conference** organized by the ASA's Quality and Productivity Section will take place in June 2008. For more information see <http://www.amstatonline.org/sections/qp/qpr/index.html>.
- The **8th Industrial Conference on Data Mining (ICDM 2008)** will take place in Leipzig (Germany) from July 16th to 18th, 2008. For more details visit <http://www.data-mining-forum.de>.
- The **9th World Meeting of International Society for Bayesian Analysis** will take place from July 21st to 25th, 2008 in Hamilton Island (Australia). It will consist of 5 keynote speakers, 90 oral presentations and two poster evenings. For more information see <http://www.isba2008.sci.qut.edu.au/>.
- The **17th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics** will be held from July 23rd to 26th, 2008 in Tomar (Portugal). For more details visit <http://www.iwms08.ipt.pt>.
- The ISI and IASC- sponsored **International Conference on Computational Statistics (COMPSTAT 2008)** will take place in Porto (Portugal) from 24th to 29th August, 2008 (see <http://www.fep.up.pt/compstat08> for more details).
- The conference on statistical methods for pharmaceutical research and early development (»**Non-Clinical Statistics Conference Leuven 2008**«) will take place from September 23rd to 25th, 2008 in Leuven (Belgium). For more information see <http://www.ncs2008.org/>.
- The **2010 International Conference on Teaching Statistics** organized by International Association for Statistics Education (IASE) will be held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) from July 11th to 16th. See <http://icots8.org> for more details.

## A Note from the Editor

Well, how do you like the new corporate look of ENBIS? It might take some time getting used to it. However, as it reflects the vibrancy of our still relatively young society, the team who worked on it hopes you will gladly accept it.

If you wish to comment on it please do so! Join the list of *ENBIS News* contributors, which, in this issue, includes Andrea Ahlemeyer-Stubbe, Stefano Barone, Shirley Coleman, Irena Ograjenšek, and Winfried Theis.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Irena Ograjenšek  
*ENBIS News* Editor

## Job Offers on [www.enbis.org](http://www.enbis.org)

ENBIS is now offering members the possibility of advertising and/or browsing through job offers at the ENBIS website. The first advertisements have already been received. Login and have a look! For more information on how to advertise contact the ENBIS webmaster at [webmaster@enbis.org](mailto:webmaster@enbis.org).

## 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.