

# International Astrostatistics Association

## IAA Message to Members

19 May, 2015

Greetings IAA membership

First, I must apologize for not providing more updates and Newsletters about IAA activities to you during the past 6 months. I have been working on and am now finally finished with a new book: Hilbe, Joseph M, *Practical Guide to Logistic Regression*, Chapman & Hall/CRC. I submitted the corrections to the final proof pages only two days ago. Plans are for the book to be published later in Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese, so it has been important to make sure the book is as error/typo free as possible. Another of my books, *Negative Binomial Regression*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (2011), Cambridge University Press, is now being prepared for a Chinese edition due to be published in Beijing this December. Anyhow, the publisher has wanted to get the new book out sale at the summer conventions, so it has been a constant rush and push to finish.

Prior to this book, heading up the effort to have a group of astrostatistics-related articles prepared for Significance magazine, which was published this past December took much more time than I thought it would. And working on 8 journal articles (only one of which is not yet published) this past year and health problems resulted in my not being in touch with you as much as I would have liked. I intend to remedy this beginning in June.

I am leaving this morning from Phoenix, Arizona to Baltimore, MD to attend a NASA workshop on “Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces” that begins today through Friday at the John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, MD. The Planetary Science community appears to be interested in incorporating new developments in statistics to the understanding of planetary and asteroidal studies. IAA members Brian Weaver (Los Alamos National Laboratory), Jamie Riggs (Northwestern Univ) and myself have been invited to attend the Workshop and to give presentations on the relationship of statistics to the issues of lunar impact craters and the aging of impacted bodies later this week. I return to Phoenix this Friday night.

I plan on sending out an IAA June Newsletter during the week of June 1. There are various activities in which the IAA and some of its members are engaged that you should be aware of. I will also ask you collectively --- and individually --- how you would like the IAA to develop in the future. It is the first, and only, global professional association for astrostatistics, which also incorporates astroinformatics. I firmly believe that our discipline is every bit as important as other academic statistically-related disciplines such as biostatistics, geostatistics, econometrics, environmental and ecological statistics, epidemiology, and so forth. They all have active professional associations, which I believe helps the discipline develop.

What I want to address is how you want your association to develop. We are very fortunate to have the ASAIP (Portal) which provides a forum for sharing astrostatistically related information with those interested in the area. Eric Feigelson and I have been co-editors of the ASAIP since its creation nearly 4 years ago. Eric, however, has been the mainstay of the Portal, which is located at Penn State University. We have what I think is an outstanding web resource through ASAIP,

and due to the sponsorship of Penn State have not had to fund the Portal or its maintenance. There has been no reason to have dues – which I hope we can maintain well into the future. I had hoped to secure corporate funding for the IAA, and thought I had it. But it fell through at the last moment about a year and a half ago. I just have not had the time to make additional presentations to potential large corporate sponsors. Following the IAA, however, and the events which have recently occurred in astrostatistics, I think we are finally in a position to obtain funding for travel grants, and so forth. Having all of the personal publication obligations pretty much behind me now will allow me to have the time to follow up on sponsors. However, it is *vital* for me to be able to tell sponsors where we are going. We have some 540 members including PostDoc and student membership categories.

We need to form more active committees or working groups. The IAA Cosmostatistics Initiative (COIN), formed by Rafael de Souza, has been a great success, putting on funded workshops, engaging in collaborative studies between astronomers and statisticians, and having the results published in journals; e.g., in the Journal of Astronomy and Computing, and making plans for future workshops. There is no reason at all why others cannot form and lead IAA collaborative Project Groups in other areas of astrostatistics. I believe one dealing with solar system astronomy will be formed soon, but there are many other areas in astronomy which can benefit from this type of effort. I'll discuss it more in the June Newsletter. I also welcome contacts from members about heading up, or participating in these endeavors. Contact me at hilbe@asu.edu or j.m.hilbe@gmail.com to discuss an area or project.

**ISI World Statistics Congress**  
**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
Jul 27-31 July, 2015

We have two Special Topic Session in Astrostatistics being held at the World Statistics Congress – one organized by Asis Chattopadhyay and one by myself. I will also be teaching a day-long course on modeling count data on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Details in the June Newsletter.

**Combined IAU General Assembly**  
**and**  
**American Astronomical Society convention**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii, USA**  
3-14 August, 2015

For IAU members – don't forget. The first-ever astrostatistics session will be held at this Assembly – Statistics and Exoplanets from 3-6 August. The IAA is a co-sponsor of the session. More details will be given in the June Newsletter.

-----

Please let me know by next week if there are items you wish me to send to the membership in the June Newsletter.

# International Astrostatistics Association

## Officers and Council members

President Joseph M. Hilbe	hilbe@asu.edu ; j.m.hilbe@gmail.com
V. Chair: Jogesh Babu - statistical sciences	babu@psu.edu
Jean-luc Starck - astronomical sciences	jstarck@cea.fr
Kirk Borne - astroinformatics	kborne@gmu.edu
Bruce Bassett - at-large	bruce.a.bassett@gmail.com

### IAA COUNCIL:

Stefano Andreon	ITALY	Univ of Padova	stefano.andreon@brera.inaf.it
Jogesh Babu	USA	Pennsylvania State Univ	babu@psu.edu
Bruce Bassett	S. AFRICA	Univ of Cape Town	bruce.a.bassett@gmail.com
Kirk Borne	USA	George Mason Univ	kborne@gmu.edu
Asis Chattopadhyay	INDIA	Univ of Calcutta	akcstat@caluniv.ac.in
Rafael de Souza	BRAZIL	Eötvös Loránd U., Hungary	rafael.2706@gmail.com
Eric Feigelson	USA	Pennsylvania State Univ	edf@astro.psu.edu
David Hand	UK	Imperial College, London	d.j.hand@imperial.ac.uk
Joseph Hilbe	USA	Arizona State Univ; JPL	hilbe@asu.edu
Martin Kunz	SWITZ	Univ of Geneva	martin.kunz@unige.ch
Tom Lored	USA	Cornell University	Lored@astro.cornell.edu
Oleg Malko	RUSSIA	Moscow State University	malkov@inasan.ru
Vicent Martinez	SPAIN	Univ of Valencia	Vicent.Martinez@uv.es
Jean-luc Starck	FRANCE	French Atomic Energy Comm	jstarck@cea.fr
Roberto Trotta	ITALY	Imperial College, London	r.trotta@imperial.ac.uk
David van Dyk	UK	Imperial College, London	d.van-dyk@imperial.ac.uk
Ben Wandelt	GERMANY	Univ Pierre & Marie Curie	wandelt@iap.fr