

Editorial

The December issue of the IAOS Statistical Journal has a special significance since it almost overlaps with the Second Anniversary of World Statistics Day (WSD) on October 20. The first WSD was five years ago in 2010. The next World Statistics Day is scheduled to be in 2020.

Paul Cheung



By a happy coincidence the December 2015 issue has an interview with Dr. Paul Cheung. That timing could not have been better, since Dr. Cheung, pictured, is one of the main founders of the WSD.

The December issue of the Journal, if you did not notice, is again very large bringing the 2015 Journal for the year to nearly 700 pages in all.

Incidentally, this is over three times larger than what the entire 2012 Journal was!!! Clearly, we are very proud of that growth in support of the entire official statistics community

As with all the interviews in the Journal the interview with Dr. Paul Cheung is completely *open*. There are also selected other *open* features for December.

In keeping with celebration of world Statistics Day, for example, we are publishing many more articles that are on the UN Fundamental Statistical Principles. These are open to all IAOS Members. That series, incidentally, began with the March Journal.

We invite even more submissions regarding the principled stewardship that Official Statisticians need to play in the discharge of their public trust. Of all the

fundamental principles the independence from political pressure may be the most important. That, in fact, is the theme of the December issue of this Journal.

Janet Norwood



Above is a picture of one of my personal friends, the late Janet Norwood. She was a real inspiration to me. Dr. Norwood is memorialized in this issue for her many contributions to Official Statistics in the United States and in Europe.

Her example of public service offers a role model for both men and, especially, women on how to maintain statistical objectivity, scholarship and thoroughness over a long career of successful government service.

Among other roles Janet played for our profession she was the 84th President of the American Statistical Association (ASA). Incidentally, I was to follow in her footsteps; and became the 100th ASA President in 2005.

The tributes from Janet's friends and family are all open, so that our whole community can remember her and continue to be inspired by her life. Let me particularly call attention to the remarks by Dr. Kirsten West regarding Norwood.

If you looked at the editor page on the inside cover, you will see that Dr. West is the incoming Editor-in-Chief of the Journal and will take over that role completely from me with the June issue

The December issue of the Journal, if you did not notice it earlier, has over 200 more pages full of arti-

cles that, as Janet's personal and professional leadership did so ably, can help us in our work and continue to move the profession along. In any event the spirit Dr. Norwood brought to our work certainly lives on.

Rod Little



Most of us producing official statistics have been trained to use frequentist inference. That has been the tradition since near the beginning of Official Statistics, hundreds of years ago. But, maybe, it is time for us to apply Bayesian Methods more in our practice. To this end I asked Professor Little, pictured, to submit one of his papers on Bayesian Methods. His **open** paper in this issue is the result. In it, he gives us a wonderful example of how Bayesian Statistics can operate in the world of Official Statistics. Take a look at his application.

Permit me also to highlight two more December papers. The first is another article by Statistics without Borders (SwB). Again, SwB is applying statistics in a crisis when Official Statistical resources are taxed beyond the breaking point. The SwB paper in the December issue, also open, is about the earthquake in Nepal and details the world response to that disaster, emphasizing the role the SwB statisticians played.

SwB is currently working on the worldwide refugee crisis (the theme of our September Journal). Sadly matters have worsened since September. We would welcome examples from our fellow professionals, in SwB or from elsewhere, that would teach or inspire us on how to better live our highest values as official statisticians.

The second article (and picking this to talk about was a hard choice too) is about the concern that income and wealth inequality has been growing at least in the developed world. The paper is by Victor Alfredo Bustos from Mexico, entitled

“Estimation of the distribution of income from survey data, adjusting for compatibility with other sources”.

There is an accompanying comment by Christine Faulkner. We would welcome comments by others on this and would, after refereeing, be happy to publish them in future issues of the Journal.

To close off this editorial, may we remind you that if you want access to all the papers in the December issue you can become an IAOS member. Now, to become a member of the IAOS is easy and inexpensive. It, among other things, provides you full (personal) online access to the Journal each year (and all the published back issues). For 2016 the IAOS membership fee for members from developed countries is EUR 25 and from developing countries, EUR 8. For Individuals who are already IAOS Institutional members the fee (for individual membership) is EUR 5. The IAOS application form is available at <http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos-form.asp>.

If you have any questions concerning the membership please contact Mrs. Margaret de Ruiter-Molloy at m.deruitermolloy@cbs.nl.

Fritz Scheuren, Editor in Chief