

Long life to the Belgian Statistical Society

Dear SBS-BVS members,

At the end of 2007 and of my presidency, I want to wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2008. It has been an honour and great privilege to serve you as president. I thank you for your confidence and support. The Belgian Statistical Society has continued to grow in the past years and its name is now well established and widely recognized.

In 2007, we particularly enjoyed the BSS annual meeting which took place for the first time in a modern venue, The Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Antwerp. The meeting attracted many participants and was a real success. I have much respect for all the efforts and endeavours made by the StatUa under the leadership of Peter Goos. The experience will be repeated in 2008 at the Novotel in Wépion (Namur) and I wish good luck to the FUNDP statistical team led by Marcel Remon. In 2007, our members have organized many seminars, workshops and conferences not only locally or nationally but also on the international scene. More scientific events will take place in 2008. The year 2007 saw the opening of initial masters in statistics and biostatistics in most Belgian universities as a consequence of the Bachelor/Master Bologna decree. It is likely that the offer will exceed the demand in the future but for time being we can only wish much success to these new master programmes. There is indeed a demand for more statisticians in scientific research, in industry and in society. Never before have we been overloaded by such huge amounts of data and information that ought to be properly analysed and turned into understandable knowledge.

At the end of my presidency, I confess that my greatest satisfaction is to see some of our younger statisticians becoming more and more involved in the society's activities and management. This is really rewarding as we, the older generation, start stepping down from office. I am confident that, with the new board, the society is in good hands.

It is difficult to acknowledge all persons who helped me during the 3-year presidency. Nonetheless, I particularly want to express my sincere thanks to Gentiane Haesbroeck for her considerable contribution as secretary, Marc Aerts and Hilde Wijnen at UHasselt who took care of the treasury office, Sophie Vanbelle and Olivier Thas, the editors of the B-Stat News, Laurence Seidel, our webmaster, and Paul Janssen, the vice-president, who will take over the presidency in 2008 according to our statutes.

Long life to the Belgian Statistical Society!

Adelin Albert
President 2005-2007