Editorial

To continue quotations on mathematical and statistical issues, here are several insightful thoughts gathered in [1]:

"After observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it", – Gautama S. Buddha.

"A small error at the outset can lead to great errors in the final conclusions", – St. Thomas Aquinas.

"There is no need for these hypotheses to be true, or even to be at all like the truth; rather one thing is sufficient for them – that they should yield calculations which agree with the observations", – Osiander, Preface to Copernicus' De Revolutionbus, 1543.

"One cannot escape the feeling that these mathematical formulae have an independent existence and an intelligence of their own, that they are wiser than we are, wiser than their discoverers, that we get more out of them than was originally put into them", – Heinrich R. Hertz.

"The grandest mill in the world will not extract wheat flour from peas cods, so pages of formulae will not get a definite result out of loose data", – Thomas H. Huxley, 1869.

"The greatest mathematicians, as Archimedes, Newton, and Gauss, always united theory and applications in equal measure", – Felix Klein, 1925.

"It was our use of probability theory as logic that has enabled us to do so easily what was impossible for those who thought of probability as a physical phenomenon associated with "randomness". Quite the opposite; we have thought of probability distributions as *carriers of information*", – I.T. Jaynes, 1993.

"One man's constant is another man's variable", – Alan J. Perlis.

"The pursuit of pretty formulas and neat theorems can no doubt quickly degenerate into a silly vice, but so can the quest for austere generalities which are so very general indeed that they are incapable of application to any particular", – E.T. Bell [2].

Guest Editor for MASA 2009,
Dr. Stan Lipovetsky

References

[1]   J.E.H. Shaw, Some Quotable Quotes for Statistics, available in the web, 2006.
[2]   H. W. Eves, Mathematical Circles Squared, a third collection, #318, , PWS-KENT Publishing, Boston, 1972, 154.