

## Honours/ Masters course in Official Statistics

In 2011, on the initiative of the Adjunct Professor of Official Statistics and the Network of Academics in Official Statistics, an across-university honours/masters course was run in Official Statistics. Despite being run on a trial basis, and with very little publicity, 29 students enrolled in (and passed) the course. Students came from the Universities of Auckland, Victoria and Otago (registering within each university in a Special Topic paper). Lecturers came from the Universities of Auckland (Professor Alan Lee, Dr Andrew Sporle), Waikato (Professor Natalie Jackson), Victoria (Adj Professor Sharleen Forbes, Dr Richard Arnold), Canterbury (Dr Greg Breetzke) and Statistics New Zealand (Mike Camden, Daniel Griffiths). A novel feature of the course was that lectures were delivered using the KAREN network multi-site conferencing technology. A course website was hosted at Victoria University. The lectures were all recorded and made available over the web and this proved very popular with the students.

The course provided an overview of the key areas of Official Statistics including topics such as:

- data sources (sample surveys and administrative data);
- the legal and ethical framework of official statistics;
- an introduction to demography;
- the collection and analysis of health, social and economic data;
- data visualisation including presentation of spatial data;
- data matching and data integration
- macroeconomic indicators and the System of National Accounts.

It was also a joint winner of the Best Cooperative Project in Statistical Literacy award by the International Statistical Literacy Project announced at the International Statistical Institute conference in Dublin in 2011. The course is being repeated in 2012 and information can be found at [http://msor.victoria.ac.nz/Courses/STOR481\\_2012T2/WebHome](http://msor.victoria.ac.nz/Courses/STOR481_2012T2/WebHome).

Sharleen receiving the award in Dublin from the Director of the ISLP, Reija Helenius of Sweden.

