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## **Science Writer Mark Buchanan Named Recipient of the ASA Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA (PRWEB) AUGUST 9, 2008** – Science writer Mark Buchanan has been selected as the 2008 recipient of the Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award (ERSA). Buchanan, a freelance science writer based in Europe, received the award for his article, "The Prosecutor's Fallacy," which was published in the *New York Times* on May 16, 2007. The award was announced by the American Statistical Association at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Colorado this week.

The ERSA was created to encourage and recognize members of the communications media who have best displayed an informed interest in the science of statistics and its role in public life. The award can be given for a single statistical article or for a body of work. In selecting the recipient, consideration is given to:

- Correctness, clarity, fairness, brevity, and professionalism of the communication
- Importance, relevance and overall effectiveness in impacting the intended audience
- Impact on the growth and national or regional exposure of statistics
- Appreciation and emphasis of the statistical aspects of a particular issue or event
- Excellent coverage of research on statistics or statistical issues

Buchanan's winning article may be viewed at the following link:  
<http://buchanan.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/05/16/the-prosecutors-fallacy/?scp=1&sq=The%20Prosecutor's%20Fallacy&st=cse>

### **About JSM**

JSM, the world's largest annual gathering of statisticians, is held jointly with the American Statistical Association (ASA), the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), and the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC). The theme for this year's conference is *Communicating Statistics: Speaking Out and Reaching Out*. A brief history of the JSM can be found at

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008/pdfs/ABriefHistoryoftheASAAnnualMeetings.doc>.

### **About the American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For more than 160 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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