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Editorial

As we write this editorial we have just received the sad news of the death of Professor Vic Barnett, who has had a major role in the existence of Teaching Statistics, and we send our condolences to his family. A fuller obituary will appear in a later issue of Teaching Statistics.

In this issue we feature an article by Laura Taylor and Kirsten Doehler; this looks at the ways some of the now very well established online polling technology can be used in teaching, both in terms of data analysis and illustrating sampling concepts. We then have a collection of articles and letters regarding the Birthday "Paradox". Anyone tempted to assume that this problem had been exhausted will find this material illuminating. Whilst the problem is set out and

alternative conceptualisations are presented, the correspondence clearly illustrates just how tricky conditional probability remains even in the best studied problems. Fernando de Maio looks at using regression in major questions of inequality and social structure which help sociology students understand and appreciate the importance of quantitative modelling and analysis. We then have an article on another well studied probability "paradox", the Monty Hall problem. This one however considers the problem in a prose form, and proposes an isomorphism which suggests that the problem may be more than a mere curiosity. It would be interesting to receive submissions regarding other such isomorphisms. Finally, there is as usual the excellent Statistical Diversions column.