Søren Bisgaard's Contributions to Quality Engineering

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Preface: An Introduction to Søren Bisgaard's Body of Work

Søren Bisgaard was an extremely productive and insightful scholar of modern industrial statistics and quality engineering. Unfortunately Søren passed away in December, 2009 at the age of 58. Many of us felt that the best way to honor his memory was to compile a selection of his published works into this volume. Søren was very proud of his affiliation with ASQ and a large proportion of his works appeared in ASQ journals. It was only natural that we would approach ASQ's Quality Press to publish this work.

Søren's total opus was much too large and too rich for a single volume, even if we restricted our attention to those works that appeared in ASQ journals. Hence, a major challenge that we faced was selecting the specific manuscripts included in this volume. We all struggled with the final decision on which specific papers to include. To put things into proper perspective, four times Søren won ASQ's Brumbaugh Award that annually goes to the paper published in an ASQ journal that makes the greatest contribution to the field of quality control.

Søren was a true visionary, which made some of these decisions very difficult. Many of his papers are relatively timeless. Others were important as preludes to other, more foundational work. Some were ahead of their time, for example, "The Future of Quality Technology: From a Manufacturing to a Knowledge Economy and from Defects to Innovation," for which Søren posthumously won the Brumbaugh Award in in 2013. This paper was Søren's Youden address at the 2005 Fall Technical Conference.

We divided Søren's works into four broad areas:

1. Design and Analysis of Experiments
2. Time Series Analysis
3. The Quality Profession
4. Healthcare Engineering

Each editor selected what he considered the most important manuscripts and ordered them according to broad themes. Søren was truly amazing for both his breadth of interests and the depth of his scholarship. Søren was one of the very few people of making substantial contributions in so many basic areas in statistics and quality engineering.

Those of us who knew Søren well miss our colleague. With the passage of time, we see more and more how important he was to our profession. We also realize more and more how we miss him, the person, especially his laugh, his love of good food, and his love of good conversation. Of course, most of all, we miss our friend.