



Classification Society

— Formerly the Classification Society of North America (CSNA) —

Paul McNicholas, President
Abby Flynt, President-Elect
Hans-Friedrich Köhn, Newsletter Editor

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Editorial

Dear friends, dear members of the Classification Society:

this year's annual meeting of the Classification Society will be hosted by our former president, **F. James Rohlf**, at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, from June 21–23.

Please, refer for further details to page 3 of this newsletter or the **Classification Society's website**

<https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting>

Hope to see you all there!

Best wishes,

Frieder

Contact:
Hans-Friedrich Köhn
Department of Psychology,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
425 Psychology Bldg.
603 E. Daniel Street
Champaign, IL 61820
hkoehn@illinois.edu

1. Looking Ahead: The Classification Society's Annual Conference 2018

The 47th annual meeting of the Classification Society will take place from THUR, June 21 to SAT, June 23 2018 at Stony Brook University, Long Island, New York. The meeting will be hosted by our former president, **F. James Rohlf**. He and Paul McNicholas, our current president, have lined up a great program. The President's Invited Address will be given by Charles Bouveyron, Université Nice Côte d'Azur, France. The President's Address will be given by Paul McNicholas, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada. Keynote lectures will be given by Tanzy Love, University of Rochester, New York, USA; Volodymyr Melnykov, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA; and Katrijn Van Deun, Tilburg University, The Netherlands. Also, there will be a special invited session for the Distinguished Dissertation Award. In addition, there will be two invited sessions: (1) Applications of Classification with speakers Justin Gross, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA, and Yang Tang, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada; (2) Recent Advances in Classification with speakers Sanjeena Dang, Binghamton University, New York, USA, and Berthold Lausen, University of Essex, UK.

The local arrangements chair is James Rohlf; the members of the program committee are Jeff Andrews, Abby Flynt, Brian Franczak, and Paul McNicholas (chair). Contributed abstracts for talks and posters are most welcome!

Presentations: The organizing committee is now accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations. If you are interested in presenting your work at the upcoming meeting, please, email a pdf file with a title and abstract containing no more than 300 words to Brian Franczak, franczakb@macewan.ca. Please, indicate whether you would like to be considered for an oral or poster presentation.

Deadlines: The submission deadline for contributed abstracts is April 15, 2018 The Early Bird Registration deadline is May 15, 2018.

Transportation: Stony Brook University is situated on the North shore of Long Island in South-Eastern New York. It is approximately 60 miles East of New York City. The Islip-MacArthur Airport (ISP) in Long Island is 16 miles from the campus and is serviced by direct flights by major airlines and commuter lines. Stony Brook is also easily reached by bus/train from the New York City Area Airports Newark (EWR), John F. Kennedy (JFK), and La Guardia (LGA) that are located approximately 50 miles to the West.

Accommodation: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express in Stony Brook, with complimentary breakfast, and shuttle service to and from campus (it is a couple of miles East of campus).

Further Information: All these details and more can be found on the website of the Classification Society at <https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting>.

2. Looking Back: The Classification Society's Annual Conference 2017 in Santa Cruz, CA

Report from the 2017 Annual Meeting

by Herbie Lee

The 2017 Classification Society Meeting was held at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley campus on June 21-24. We had a good turnout, including several speakers from industry. The banquet was at Testarossa Winery.

The President's Invited Address was given by Rob Tibshirani of Stanford University. Rob talked on "Cancer detection via the lasso and customized training" where he explained how one could fit specific versions of the model for individual patients. This approach to customized models can improve predictions. He also provided insight into the lasso and gave demonstrations his software package.

The plenary keynote talk was given by Michael Jordan of the University of California, Berkeley. Michael's talk was "On Gradient-Based Optimization: Accelerated, Distributed, Asynchronous and Stochastic." He described a theoretical framework for improving gradient descent optimization, showing how existing accelerated algorithms fit into that framework. He gave examples of how one could make use of this generalization.

We also had a number of talks on mixture models, plus talks on tree methods, machine learning, spatial/temporal applications, and a variety of other topics. Speakers from General Electric, Stitch Fix, and the Climate Corporation provided insight into how classification is used in industry.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2018 meeting in Stony Brook!

3. Call for Nominations: The 2018 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award

Each year, the Classification Society offers a Distinguished Dissertation Award (the Award, hereafter) for an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation on the theme of clustering, classification, or related areas of data analysis, encompassing associated theory and/or applications. The 2018 Award totals US\$500 in book vouchers from Chapman and Hall/CRC. The winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special session at the 2018 Classification Society Annual Meeting, which will be held at Stony Brook University, Long Island, New York, from June 20–23, 2018. The Classification Society will cover travel expenses to the 2018 Annual Meeting of at most US\$1,000 for a North American-based Award winner or at most US\$1,500 for an Award winner based elsewhere.

Criteria for nomination for the Award include: (i) the main topic of the dissertation is in classification, clustering, or a closely related area; (ii) the dissertation contains innovative work in theory/methodology, or innovative and well-developed application(s); and (iii) the literature review is thorough. To be eligible for nomination, a Ph.D. dissertation must have been successfully completed—including successful defense—within the calendar year 2017.

Nominations may be made by the dissertation author, advisor/supervisor, or a related person, and must be sent by email. A nomination must include contact information for the nominator and nominee (if different), a URL where an online copy of the dissertation can be accessed by the members of the Award Committee, and an electronic (i.e., scanned) cover letter, written and signed by the nominator, stating the date of completion of the Ph.D. dissertation and outlining why the dissertation merits the award. The nominator must also arrange for two external referee reports to be sent directly to the chair of the Award committee. If possible, the referees should be arms length from the dissertation author and their supervisor.

Cover letters should include full bibliographic details for any published papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material that has arisen from the dissertation. For non-English language dissertations, nominators are requested to provide an extended abstract in English and, where relevant, to highlight any papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material associated with the thesis that has been published in English.

The 2018 Award Committee comprises:

- Stephen France (Mississippi State University, United States);
- Bobby Gramacy (Virginia Tech, United States);
- Fionn Murtagh (University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom). Nominations and external referee reports must be submitted to the chair of the Award Committee, Fionn Murtagh, at fmurtagh@acm.org, on or before 11.59pm (EST) on February 1, 2018. Results will be announced approximately two months after this submission deadline.

4. Important Conference Dates

(1) 5th International Conference on Big Data Analysis and Data Mining,
June 20–21, 2018; Rome, Italy;
<https://datamining.conferenceseries.com/>

(2) 2018 Classification Society Annual Conference,
June 21–23, 2018; Wang Center, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA;
<https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting>

(3) ECDA 2018, European Conference on Data Analysis,
July 4–6, 2018; Paderborn, Germany;
<http://groups.uni-paderborn.de/eim-i-fg-huellermeier/ecda2018>

(4) DSSV 2018, Data Science, Statistics and Visualization,
July 9–11, 2018; TU Wien (Vienna), Austria;
<http://iasc-isi.org/dssv2018>

(5) IMPS 2018: International Meeting of the Psychometric Society,
July 10–13, 2018; Columbia University, New York City, USA;
<https://www.psychometricsociety.org/content/imps-2018>

(6) Data Science: Analytics, Education and Industry,
(Organized by Prof. Berthold Lausen, President of IFCS.)
International Federation of Classification Societies, European Association of Data Science,
September 24–26, 2018; University of Essex, UK;