



Classification Society

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

Fionn Murtagh, President
William D. Shannon, President-Elect
Hans-Friedrich Köhn, Newsletter Editor

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Editorial

Dear Classification Society members,

here are two requests from the board of directors. First, please, help us make the next annual CS meeting in St. Louis a success! How? By organizing a session and/or giving a talk! Second, please, spread the word that the nomination deadline for the CS Distinguished Dissertation Award has been pushed back to February 1, 2010 — please, encourage potential candidates to apply to this prestigious early career award!

Merry Xmas and a happy, healthy, and successful 2010 to everybody!

Warmest Regards,
Frieder

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2010 Classification Society Annual Meeting, St. Louis, June 17–19

The meeting will be held again at the Farrell Learning Center at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis (as additional time slot, June 16 is planned to be open for short courses). Proposals are now accepted for (1) short courses on June 16, and (2) invited sessions.

The organizing committee includes Samantha Bates-Prins (prinssc@jmu.edu), Dave Dubin (ddubin@illinois.edu), Douglas Steinley (steinleyd@missouri.edu), and Erin Tanenbaum (Erin.Tanenbaum@nielsen.com).

Local host: Bill Shannon, PhD, Associate Professor of Biostatistics in Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO (Tel. 314-704-8725; WSHANNON@dom.wustl.edu).

2009 Classification Society Board of Directors Meeting (Minutes)

The meeting was called to order in the St. Louis Coffee Oasis and Mediterranean Café, 8 S. Euclid Ave., by Classification Society President Fionn Murtagh at 6:00 p.m. Present were Carolyn Anderson (Director), Dave Dubin (Webmaster), Willem Heiser (Journal Editor), Mel Janowitz (Past President), John Kimmel (Executive Editor for Statistics, Springer Publishers), Hans-Friedrich Köhn (Newsletter Editor), Mike Kurtz (Bibliographic Service Editor), Buck McMorris (IFCS President), Rebecca Nugent (Director), Samantha Bates Prins (Director and Chair, Dissertation Award Committee), Stan Sclove (Secretary/Treasurer), Bill Shannon (President Elect), Doug Steinley (Director), Erin McClintic Tanenbaum (visiting; Senior Statistician, Nielsen Claritas). Absent were Nema Dean (Director), Jim Rohlf (Editorial Director for CLASS-L list-serve), and Padhraic Smyth (Director). Bill Shannon and Fionn Murtagh shared the duty of presiding over the meeting, due to the layout of the table and the room. The following topics were discussed:

- (1) The minutes of the 2008 meeting (Washington University, St. Louis) were accepted.
- (2) A welcome was extended to new Directors, Carolyn Anderson and Nema Dean, whose three-year terms started January 1, 2009; thanks were extended to directors Samantha Bates Prins and Padhraic Smyth, whose three-year terms will end on December 31, 2009.
- (3) Next election (end of 2009): Samantha Bates Prins and Erin McClintic Tanenbaum agreed to stand for election as Directors. A candidate for President-Elect remains to be selected. — The By-Laws permit slating a single candidate for a position. The slate is to be announced to the voting members, with a call for nominations “from the floor” within thirty days, ideally about October 16 to November 15. A petition of at least five voting members put a candidate onto the ballot. Preferably, the election should take place within

the thirty days from November 16 to December 15.

(4) On-line seminars: the possibility of posting recordings of talks online was discussed. Related events such as Webinars were also considered. Some could be open, some commercial. For example, next year's keynotes could be taped and posted on-line. David Banks would be a particularly good speaker. An On-Line Seminar Committee was appointed, consisting of Rebecca Nugent, Erin Tanenbaum, and Bill Shannon. By way of further dissemination of our research, Mike Kurtz mentioned that we could avail ourselves of *arXiv*, which gives open access to e-prints in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Quantitative Biology, Quantitative Finance, and Statistics. It is similar to SSRN, the Social Science Research Network (which we could utilize also). John Kimmel distributed an attractive, informative 33-page report from Springer. Highlights include the facts that SpringerLink traffic is increasing, with 1500 journals on it. The table of contents alerts for the *Journal of Classification* grew from 682 in 2007 to 915 in 2008.

(5) Willem Heiser, Editor, reported on the *Journal of Classification*. The Editorial Managerial System has been introduced, increasing efficiency. There will now be three issues per year. A special issue for IFCS 2009 Dresden was considered, but there were only about five submissions. Maybe we can make the concept work for IFCS 2011 at St. Andrews. Special issues of *Journal of Classification* should generally be considered, for example, "Clustering in Educational Measurement".

(6) The present meeting: Bill Shannon reported in his capacity as meeting organizer. About sixty participants have registered for the meeting, including about eight or ten from Interface.

(7) Future meetings: next year's meeting will again be held at Washington University School of Medicine, with Bill Shannon as organizer. It was remarked that more local signage, directing attendees to the locations of the reception, sessions, and banquet, would be helpful. Doug Steinley, Rebecca Nugent, Samantha Prins were appointed to the Program Committee for next meeting, along with Bill Shannon. It would be highly desirable if each board member organized an invited session; several signed up to do so. A graduate student poster-session such as the one at CSNA 2007, Champaign-Urbana, will be held (please contact Rebecca Nugent and Sam Prins for details). Rebecca Nugent will head a committee to look into an NSF travel grant, seeking travel expenses for next year's meeting of about twenty grad students/junior faculty. Dave Dubin will pursue the idea of again meeting jointly (or co-located) with the Digital Humanities group, as we did at the CSNA 2007 meeting in Champaign-Urbana (although next year, the Digital Humanities meeting will be in Europe). The idea of holding IFCS 2013 in St. Louis was brought up and met with approval.

(8) Web presence: Dave Dubin stated that he will be happy to continue as webmaster. We will be looking into social networking applications online; Fionn Murtagh will liaise with Dave Dubin for a review.

(9) 2009 CS Dissertation Award: the award committee was chaired by Samantha Prins; this year's winner is Innar Liiv. The committee was thanked and commended for its efforts. The same committee, Samantha Bates Prins, Rebecca Nugent, Douglas Steinley, Fionn Murtagh, with the addition of Nema Dean, was re-appointed for the 2010 CS Dissertation Award.

(10) Newsletter: newsletter editor Hans-Friedrich Köhn reported that things have been going satisfactorily; he was thanked for his efforts and urged to keep up the good work.

(11) Bibliographic Service: service editor Mike Kurtz reported that there were some fifty thousand entries on the CD. The CD has not come out this year, because the software is broken. Alternatives were considered; for example, using Google Scholar. There was a consensus that the bibliographic service should be transferred to the web for open access.

(12) Secretary/Treasurer's report: Stanley Sclove reported that the society currently (i.e., June 2009) has 62 members (with about 40 more joining or renewing at this meeting, which compares with 111 members in June, 2008 — the figures for June 2007, 2006 and 2005 are 83, 105, and 88, respectively. Memberships are for the calendar year. Typically, a few more persons join by the end of the year.

(13) Bonuses of \$1,750 to Eva Whitmore as Journal Technical Editor and \$550 as Service Technical Editor were approved (bonuses had been raised from \$1,500 and \$500, respectively, in comparison to last year.). Bonuses of \$300 and \$100 to Bill Shannon's assistants Kathy Kronk and Elizabeth Shannon, respectively, were approved. A Balance Sheet and a Statement of Income/Expenditures, with proposed budget, were distributed. The latter was approved, subject to the audit of the Finance Committee (Carolyn Anderson and Doug Steinley).

(14) Buck McMorris suggested that possibly in the future the board meeting could be held at lunch, in front of the whole group of attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Stanley Sclove

2010 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award

The Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award is supported by Chapman and Hall/CRC. The award will be for the best PhD (or approximately equivalent doctoral) dissertation nominated by an annual deadline. The theme is clustering, classification, or related areas of data analysis, encompassing both associated theory and/or applications. Typical criteria for nomination include: (i) the most innovative or impressive work in the-

ory/methodology, or the most innovative or well developed application(s); (ii) most thorough literature review.

For the next submission deadline, February 1, 2010, nominated dissertations must have been successfully completed in the 2009 calendar year. Nominations are to be made through the evaluation committee chair and will be received from the author (PhD), their advisor/supervisor, or other related persons. Nomination should include name and contact of the nominee, an online copy of the dissertation, and a short description of why the dissertation merits the award. Web-accessible versions of the nomination and dissertation must be made available. Printed copies may be requested. For non-English language theses, it is requested to provide an extended abstract, and (where relevant) pointers to papers associated with the thesis that have been published.

In 2010 the Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award totals US\$500 in book vouchers from Chapman and Hall/CRC. The winner is invited to make a presentation in a special plenary session at the Classification Society's Annual Meeting (travel expenses are covered up to \$500 by the Classification Society). Please, contact for information and nominations: Dr. Samantha C. Bates Prins, prinssc@jmu.edu. Additional information on the award can be found at the Classification Society website: www.classification-society.org/csna.

2011 International Federation of Classification Societies Conference

The 2011 International Federation of Classification Societies Conference (IFCS 2011) will be held at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland from July 10–17, 2011. Be sure to be there! The University of St. Andrews is Scotlands oldest university, founded in 1411 by the medieval Scottish Church and King James I of Scotland. Its sixcentenary will commence in 2011. St. Andrews is also well-known as the “Home of Golf”, where the rules of golf are set by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, founded in 1764. A preliminary conference web page is available at:

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/business/ifcs2011>

Now is an excellent time to propose the organization of sessions at IFCS 2011! Please, contact Fionn Murtagh (fmurtagh@acm.org).

Important Conference Dates

(1) ADA6 — 6th Astronomical Data Analysis Conference, May 3–6, 2010, Monastir, Tunisia; <http://www.aset.org.tn/conf/ADA6>

(2) 2010 Classification Society Annual Meeting, June 17–19, 2010, St. Louis, MO, USA;
<http://www.classification-society.org/csna/csna.html>

(3) IMPS 2010 — International Meeting of the Psychometric Society, July 7–9, 2010,
Athens, GA, USA; http://www.psychometrika.org/meeting/2010/IMPS2010_brochure.pdf

(4) COMPSTAT 2010 — 19th International Conference on Computational Statistics, Au-
gust 22–27, 2010, Paris, France; <http://www.compstat2010.fr>

(5) Joint Meeting GfKI-CLADAG, September 8–10, 2010, Florence, Italy;
<http://gfk1-cladag.ds.unifi.it/home.php>