Classification Society

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

William D. Shannon, President
Rebecca Nugent, President-Elect
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Classification Society Newsletter (84), May 2011

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Editorial

Dear Classification Society members,

The latest edition of the Classification Society Newsletter has finally arrived! (the news was sparse — and my transition from Missouri to Illinois was rougher than expected). Our annual meeting is just five weeks away! It will take place at a different venue: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, Thursday, June 16 to Saturday, June 18, 2011. There are still openings for abstracts or invited sessions! If you are interested, please, contact Doug Steinley (steinleyd@missouri.edu.). See you all in Pittsburgh!

Best regards,

Frieder

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1. Classification Society Annual Conference 2011, Pittsburgh, June 16–18

The Classification Society is proud to host its Annual Conference 2011 on classification and clustering at Carnegie Mellon University from June 16 - 18, 2011 in Pittsburgh, PA (organization: Rebecca Nugent, Department of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, rnugent@stat.cmu.edu, and Douglas Steinley, Department of Psychological Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia, steinleyd@missouri.edu.). The conference has a broad focus representing all facets of classification and clustering, including but not limited to combinatorial optimization, data mining, machine learning, statistical classification, mixture modeling, and so on. In addition to addressing a wide array of methodological topics, applications traditionally span the broad range from educational testing to national security to federal policies, text mining, astronomy, and much more. Registration is open and can be made through

http://cs2011.stat.cmu.edu/

where you also find directions, hotel information, and so on. Please, send your abstract to Douglas Steinley (steinleyd@missouri.edu.); deadline for submissions is May 31, 2011.

So, get registered and submit your abstracts! Or you might even want to consider organizing a session!

Please note for planning return flights that the meeting will be finished by 12 or 12:30 pm on Saturday, June 18, 2011. The first scientific session will be in the morning on Thursday, June 16, 2011.

2. The Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award 2011

Classification Society Awards Committee chair Samantha Bates Prins (Assistant Professor, Mathematics & Statistics Department, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia) reports:

The 2011 Distinguished Dissertation Award winner is Dr. Frank Busing for his dissertation “Advances in Multidimensional Unfolding” defended at Leiden University, The Netherlands, under supervision of Professor Willem Heiser in April, 2010.

Seven submissions were received this year. The evaluation committee was comprised of Samantha Bates Prins, Douglas Steinley, Rebecca Nugent, Nema Dean and special invited member, Daniel Aloise (2010 Award winner). All dissertations were refereed.

Nominees David Casado de Lucas, Pedro Contreras, Jorge Tendeiro and Hongxia Yang receive travel awards to join us in Pittsburgh in June!
All seven nominations were of excellent quality and are listed at http://www.classification-society.org/csna/dissaward-shortlist11.html.

3. Minutes from the Classification Board of Directors Meeting, 2010

**Venue:** Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, June 17, 2010

The meeting was called to order in Room 214 of the Farrell Learning Center, by Classification Society President Bill Shannon at 5:00 p.m. Present, in addition to Bill Shannon, were Nema Dean (Director), Dave Dubin (Webmaster), Willem Heiser (Journal Editor), Frieder Köhn (Newsletter Editor), Rebecca Nugent (Director), Jim Rohlf (Editorial Director for CLASS-L list-serve), Stan Sclove (Secretary/Treasurer), Doug Steinley (Director); absent were Carolyn Anderson (Director), Michael Kurtz (Bibliographic Service Editor), Fionn Murtagh (Past-President), Samantha Bates Prins (Director and Chair, Dissertation Award Committee), and Erin Tanenbaum (Director). Visiting, at the invitation of Bill Shannon, were Hans Bock, Mel Janowitz, and Buck McMorris.

The minutes of the 2009 meeting (Washington University, St. Louis) had been accepted in an email vote last June after that meeting. Early distribution of minutes is to encourage early action on items.

**Personnel**

Newly elected Directors, Samantha Prins and Erin Tanenbaum, were welcomed to the Board. A vacancy on the Board was created by Rebecca Nugent, a Director, now President-Elect. The procedure to fill a vacancy is by election by the Board. Elizabeth Hohman was nominated. An email polling of the Board will be conducted. Three candidates, Elizabeth Ayers, Elizabeth Hohman, and Doug Steinley were placed in nomination for the two Board positions that will become available at the end of the year. The election will be held on-line before the end of the year (the slate is to be announced to the voting members, with a call for nominations “from the floor” with a thirty-day period allowed for this; a petition of at least five voting members puts a candidate onto the ballot; thirty days are allowed for online voting, this period must end at least a couple of weeks before the end of the year).

**Journal of Classification (Willem Heiser, Editor)**

Submissions are now handled through the Editorial Managerial System, increasing efficiency. There are now three issues of the Journal of Classification per year; in addition, special issues can be considered (for example, on clustering in educational testing, as currently in planning). There is a new five-year contract (calendar years 2011 through 2015) with Springer. It provides for payment of $13,500 (up from $12,000) annually from Springer to the Society, in two installments, due in February and August. The Society has been retaining $2,000; the Board approved continuation of this: $11,500 will be passed on to the Editorial Office (in two equal payments of $5,750, after receipt of the funds from Springer and after billing by the Editorial Office).
Meetings
Bill Shannon reported in his capacity as organizer of the 2010 meeting: (i) about three dozen attendees were registered for the meeting; (ii) the talks were of very high quality and were well received. The meeting next year will be held at Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, organized by Rebecca Nugent of that university and Doug Steinley of the University of Missouri-Columbia. Ideally, each Board member would organize an invited session. Also, graduate student poster-session such as those at CSNA 2007 (Champaign-Urbana) and CSNA 1997 (American University) should be held. Bill Shannon and Rebecca Nugent will look into NSF or NIH support for the meeting (especially, travel grants). Doug Steinley and Bill Shannon will investigate NIAAA funding. Bill Shannon, Rebecca Nugent and Doug Steinley will develop a formal plan for proposing future meetings. This plan is to take the form of an RFP (request for proposals), with specific categories identified (e.g., date, location, theme, organizing committee, housing, dates for advertising). The plan will also include an RFP for short courses.

Dissertation Award Committee (Samantha Bates Prins, Chair)
The winner this year was Daniel Aloise, for “Exact Algorithms for Minimum Sum-of-Squares Clustering”, University of Montreal, June 2009 (adviser: Pierre Hansen). Aloise is now at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Natal, Brazil. The committee is thanked and commended for its efforts. The committee for next year will be the same (Samantha Bates Prins, chair; Nema Dean; Fionn Murtagh; Rebecca Nugent; Doug Steinley), with the replacement of the winner from last year, Innar Liiv, with the winner of this year, Daniel Aloise.

Newsletter (Frieder Köhn, Newsletter Editor)
Things have been going satisfactorily; he was thanked for his efforts and urged to keep up the good work. Board members and others are strongly encouraged to supply “worth to know” items for the Newsletter. Bill Shannon and Frieder Köhn will put together a proposal on how to move forward with the Newsletter and report to the Board by July 15.

Bibliographic/Service (Michael Kurtz, Service Editor)
Michael Kurtz was unable to attend, but reported that he plans on recruiting a masters student as assistant, who will be invited to the meeting next year.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report (Stanley Sclove, Secretary/Treasurer)
Membership is presently (June 2010) at seventy-two, with several more joining or renewing at this meeting, which compares with similar numbers in the past several years. Memberships are for the calendar year. Typically, a few more persons join by the end of the year. Bonuses: $1,750 to Eva Whitmore as Journal Technical Editor (as voted, no bonus for her service as Technical Editor of the Bibliographic Service because that activity was more or less on temporary hiatus this past year; the bonus for Bibliographic Service Technical Editor was $550 last year); $300 to Bill Shannon’s assistant Kathy Kronk were approved. A Balance Sheet and a Statement of Income and Expenses, with proposed Budget, were distributed. The proposed budget for FY 2010–2011 (June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011) is $30,000 — similar to that of recent years.
Web Presence
The discussion centered on whether commercial services and graphic design should be used for updating/maintenance of the website. Dave Dubin stated that he would be happy to continue as webmaster. He will be looking into consulting a graphic designer with regard to re-design of the site. Rebecca Nugent and Stanley Sclove will serve with Dave Dubin on the Website Committee and will develop a proposal for updating the web page.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The General Meeting was to be held after lunch on the following day (Friday, June 18, 2010).

Stanley Sclove,
July 5, 2010

4. Election Results

Stanley L. Sclove, Secretary, reports:

The following persons were elected to office in the election held at the end of 2010 (their term of office started January 1, 2011):

Board of Directors:
Elizabeth Hohman; Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division

Douglas Steinley; Department of Psychological Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia

5. Important Conference Dates

(1) 2011 Classification Society Annual Conference, June 16–18, 2011, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; http://cs2011.stat.cmu.edu/


(4) IFCS/GfKl 2011 — International Federation of Classification Societies Symposium, joint with the German Classification Society, August 30 – September 2, 2011, Frankfurt, Germany; http://www.ifcs2011.de/