Classification Society

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

Rebecca Nugent, President
Douglas Steinley, President-Elect
Hans-Friedrich Köhn, Newsletter Editor

Classification Society Newsletter (85), May 2012

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Editorial

Dear Classification Society members,

The latest edition of the Classification Society Newsletter has arrived! This year's annual meeting will take place at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, Thursday, June 14 to Saturday, June 16, 2012 (conference website: `http://cs2012.stat.cmu.edu`). There are still openings for abstracts and invited sessions! Abstracts can be submitted at `http://cs2012.stat.cmu.edu`; for questions, please, contact our conference organizers, Rebecca Nugent (`rnugent@stat.cmu.edu`) and Elizabeth Ayers (`eayers@air.org`). See you all in Pittsburgh!

Best regards,

Frieder

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1. Classification Society Annual Conference 2012, Pittsburgh, June 14–16

The Classification Society is proud to host its Annual Conference 2012 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, and Elizabeth Ayers, American Institutes for Research, Washington, D.C.). The conference has an inclusive focus on all facets of classification and clustering, including but not limited to: combinatorial optimization, data mining, machine learning, statistical classification, mixture modeling, etc. In addition to addressing a wide array of methodological approaches to grouping data, the fields of applications have a rich tradition of being quite broad with some examples including educational testing, national security, federal policies, text mining, astronomy, and much more. The Classification Society is requesting abstracts for oral presentations that are applicable to any area of classification. The conference is not limited geographically and hopes to continue to attract attendees and presenters from around the globe. We are also proud to continue sponsoring the finalists for the 2012 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Abstracts can be submitted at `http://cs2012.stat.cmu.edu`. The submission deadline is Friday April 27th, 2012 (11:59 p.m. EST) with acceptance notification by Friday May 4th, 2012. We are inviting all Classification Society members to attend the meeting as well as submit an abstract. If you have any questions or are interested in organizing an invited session, please contact the conference organizers Rebecca Nugent (`rnugent@stat.cmu.edu`) and Elizabeth Ayers (`eayers@air.org`). Additional information regarding the conference can be found at the conference website (`http://cs2012.stat.cmu.edu`) or at the Classification Society website (`http://www.classification-society.org/clsoc/clsoc.php`).

There will be an opening social event on Wednesday evening, June 13, 2012; a small reception Thursday evening, June 14, 2012; and the banquet on Friday evening, June 15, 2012. So, get registered and submit your abstracts! Mark your calendars and make plans to join us. We are looking forward to having a wonderful conference this year, including trying to top last year's river boat and dance party banquet! Looking forward to seeing you all in June!

Please note for planning return flights that the meeting will be finished by late afternoon on Saturday, June 16, 2012. The first scientific session will be in the morning on Thursday, June 14, 2012.

2. 2013 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award

The Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award is supported by Chapman & Hall/CRC. The award will be for the best PhD thesis 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: (a) the

most innovative or impressive work in theory/methodology, or the most innovative or well developed application(s); (b) most thorough literature review.

Nominated dissertations must have been successfully completed in the 2012 calendar year. Nominations are to be made through the evaluation committee chair and will be received from the author, the 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 2012, the Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award totals US\$ 500 in book vouchers from Chapman & 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 US\$ 500 by the Classification Society). Additional information on the award can be found at the Classification Society website: `www.classification-society.org/csna`.

3. Minutes from the Classification Board of Directors Meeting, 2011

Venue: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, June 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order in 154R of Baker Hall, by Classification Society President Bill Shannon at 12:00 Noon. The Board consists of fifteen persons. Present, in addition to Bill Shannon, were Beth Ayers (Director), Dave Dubin (Webmaster), Willem Heiser (Journal Editor), Elizabeth Hohman (Director), Michael Kurtz (Bibliographic Service Editor), Rebecca Nugent (President-Elect), Samantha Bates Prins (Director and Chair, Dissertation Award Committee), Jim Rohlf (Editorial Director for CLASS-L List-Serve), Stan Sclove (Secretary/Treasurer). Absent were Carolyn Anderson (Director), Nema Dean (Director), Frieder Köhn (Newsletter Editor), Fionn Murtagh (Past-President), and Doug Steinley (Director). Newly elected directors Beth Ayers, Elizabeth Hohman and Doug Steinley were welcomed to the Board. The minutes of the 2010 meeting (Washington University, St. Louis) were accepted.

This Annual Meeting.
Rebecca Nugent reported, in her capacity as meeting organizer. First it was noted that Beth Ayers had stepped forward to be co-organizer. About four dozen (up somewhat from last year) are registered for the meeting. Income and expenses will be about equal. Travel awards (up to five hundred dollars each) will be given to the three dissertation award winners who are able to attend. Their registrations, as well as that of the student working on the bibliographic service are waived. The talks are of very high quality and are being well received. Some submissions were turned away because of a lack of slots.

Dissertation Award Committee (Samantha Bates Prins, Chair).
There were seven submissions, all of very high quality. Awards were made to four persons, only three being able to attend (this year's winner, Frank Busing, unfortunately, was unable to attend). The committee was thanked and commended for its efforts. The committee for next year will be the same (Samantha Bates Prins, Nema Dean, Fionn Murtagh, Rebecca Nugent, and Doug Steinley), with the replacement of last year's winner, Daniel Aloise, with this year's winner, Frank Busing, and Nema Dean as chair. Links to the webpages of the winners will be put on the Classification Society website. Travel awards of up to US$ 500 will be made again next year, with the winner receiving up to US$ 1500 if foreign, and up to US$ 1000 if from the United States.

***Journal of Classification* (Willem Heiser, Editor).**
Willem Heiser is happy with the continuing success and progress of the journal. Recall that there are now three issues per year. Numbers of receipts, acceptances, and papers appearing have increased appropriately. Acceptances are up to about twenty per year (about six per issue). Submissions continue to be handled through the online Editorial Managerial System that has led to a considerable increase in efficiency.

John Kimmel, who was executive editor for statistics has left Springer and joined Chapman & Hall/CRC in a similar capacity. Our new contact at Springer is Marc Strauss. The production editor, Natalie Johnson, has also left Springer. Further, Willem Heiser has a new editorial assistant in Leiden. A bonus of US$ 1750 (same as last year) was voted for technical editor, Eva Whitmore.

Two special issues are in the works, one consisting of papers from the Italian conference and one on classification in education to be edited by Carolyn Anderson and Jeffrey A. Douglas of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. There is a plan for a special issue from the meeting in Scotland with Fionn Murtagh joining as special editor. We are invited to suggest topics for future special issues.

Bibliographic/Service (Michael Kurtz, Service Editor).
The search engine is being built by a couple of students. One will be attending and reporting tomorrow. The project is not yet finished. The procedure is that technical editor, Eva Whitmore, receives the information (that we purchase from ISI/Thomson-Reuters for about US$ 1000 a year) and posts it to a website. It goes to CrossRef and gets DOIs. The system is being brought up in SolR, a search engine system to do this task. Kurtz will communicate with webmaster Dave Dubin to get the information up on our website. A bonus of US$ 550 was voted for technical editor, Eva Whitmore.

Newsletter (Frieder Köhn, Newsletter Editor).
Frieder Koehn, editor, was unable to attend but submitted a report by e-mail that is contained in the information packet given the Board. He reported that things have been going satisfactorily; he was thanked for his efforts. Board members and others are encouraged to supply items for the Newsletter. The bibliographic service search engine will refer users to the Newsletter.

Web Presence (Dave Dubin, Webmaster).
The organization of the site has been improved. We can post items to the news section. The current structure will be maintained but there will be reference to the blog. Material along the lines of short articles that David Banks and Glenn Milligan used to put in the Newsletter could be posted.

Secretary/Treasurers Report (Stanley Sclove, Secretary/Treasurer)
Stan Sclove reported that membership, income and expenses have remained steady (details are in the information packet given the Board). The proposed budget for FY 2011–2012 (June 1,2011 through May 31, 2012) is approximately US$ 30,000 (i.e., similar to that of recent years).

New Business I: Next Election (End of 2011).
There will be four slots, President-Elect (two-year term), Secretary/Treasurer (three-year term), and two directors (three-year term). A nominating committee will be organized by Bill Shannon. 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 to end at least a couple of weeks before the end of the year).

New Business II: Future Meetings:
Next year's Classification Society meeting will again be at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, organized by Rebecca Nugent and Beth Ayers for next June. Board members should let Rebecca Nugent know what dates they can not attend. It would be ideal if each Board member organized an invited session. A preference for not having parallel sessions was expressed. A poster-session may be held. The IFCS board has invited the Classification Society to host IFCS 2013 in the United States. This is being taken under advisement. Nema Dean will be forwarding IFCS meeting guidelines to us. There was a reminder that the General Meeting will be today (Friday) at 5:00 p.m. following the sessions, and preceding the river boat trip and dinner.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Stanley Sclove

4. Minutes from the Classification Society Annual General Meeting, 2011

Classification Society President, Bill Shannon, called the meeting to order in the meeting room at 5:00 p.m. It was announced that next year's annual meeting will be again held here at Carnegie Mellon University, in June, 2012. Members are urged to notify the organizers, Rebecca Nugent and Beth Ayers, of potential conflicting dates.

The Dissertation Award competition will continue, with the accompanying travel awards and award to the winner.

A Nominating Committee will be constituted; to be elected will be a President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and two members of the Board of Directors.

ICC, an International Conference on Classification, will be taking place at St. Andrews, Scotland, next month. The IFCS biennial will take place in Frankfurt, Germany, in September.

The Board of IFCS has invited the Classification Society to host the biennial, IFCS 2013, in the United States. This is being taken under advisement by the Classification Society Board. The usual attendance at IFCS is about three hundred.

Stanley Sclove

5. Classification Society Election Results

President-Elect: Douglas Steinley, University of Columbia-Missouri, Columbia, MO.

Secretary/Treasurer: Carolyn J. Anderson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

Board of Directors: Fionn Murtagh, Science Foundation Ireland; Stan Sclove, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL.

6. Recent Passings

Among members who passed away in 2011 were several founders and former presidents, including **Phipps Arabie** (longterm former editor of the *Journal of Classification*), **Doug Carroll** (long a mainstay of the Classification Society), **Bernie Harris** (a mathematical statistician and longtime active member), **Joe Ward** (inventor of Ward's clustering method), **Peter H.A. Sneath**, **Robert (Bob) Sokal** (the field of numerical taxonomy was essentially co-founded by Sokal and Sneath), and **Michael Windham** (a former president of the Classification Society). Obituaries have appeared elsewhere.

7. Some New Publications by Members of the Classification Society

(1) *Statistical Learning and Data Science*
Editors: M. Gettler Summa, CEREMADE, Université Paris Dauphine, France; L. Bottou, Microsoft, Redmond, CA, USA; B. Goldfarb, CEREMADE, Université Paris Dauphine, France; **F. Murtagh**, Science Foundation Ireland; C. Pardoux, CEREMADE, Université Paris Dauphine, France; M. Touati, CEREMADE, CNRS, France.
Series: Chapman & Hall/CRC Computer Science & Data Analysis (ISBN: 9781439867631);

Table of Contents available at `http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781439867631`.

(2) *Statistical Methodology, Volume 9, Issues 1–2, pp. 1–114*: **Special Issue on Astrostatistics**
(guest edited by **F. Murtagh**, T.J. Loredo & J.-L. Stack).

Table of Contents:
– Editorial for the special issue on astrostatistics (**F. Murtagh**, T.J. Loredo, J.-L. Starck)
– Deconvolution under Poisson noise using exact data fidelity and synthesis or analysis sparsity priors (F.-X. Dupé, M.J. Fadili, J.-L. Starck)
– Astronomical image restoration using variational methods and model combination (M. Vega, J. Mateos, R. Molina, A.K. Katsaggelos)
– Processing MUSE hyperspectral data: Denoising, deconvolution and detection of astrophysical sources (S. Bourguignon, D. Mary, E. Slezak)
– Optimal Bayesian fusion of large hyperspectral astronomical observations (M. Petremand, A. Jalobeanu, C. Collet)
– Parameter estimation from a model grid application to the Gaia RVS spectra (A. Bijaoui, A. Recio-Blanco, P. de Laverny, C. Ordenovic)
– Spin spherical harmonics from Hopf fibration: a symplectic view (M. Lachièze-Rey)
– Towards a fast, model-independent Cosmic Microwave Background bispectrum estimator (S. Pires, S. Plaszczynski, A. Lavabre)
– Uncertainty in 2-point correlation function estimators and baryon acoustic oscillation detection in galaxy surveys (A. Labatie, J.-L. Starck, M. Lachièze-Rey, P. Arnalte-Mur)
– Bayesian methods for analysis and adaptive scheduling of exoplanet observations (T.J. Loredo, J.O. Berger, D.F. Chernoff, M.A. Clyde, B. Liu)

(3) Journal special issues arising out of ICC 2011, International Classification Conference 2011, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, July 2011

(a) *Progress in Artificial Intelligence* (Springer): "Interactive Classification in Evolving Environments" (guest Editor: B. Mac Namee, Applied Intelligence Research Centre, School of Computing, Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin, Ireland).

(b) *Progress in Artificial Intelligence* (Springer): "Conformal prediction and probability machines: making reliable decisions under uncertainty and achieving performance guarantees" (guest editor: A. Gammerman, Computer Learning Research Centre, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK).

(c) *Journal of Classification* (Springer): "Clustering and Classification" (guest editor: **F. Murtagh**, Science Foundation Ireland).

8. Important Conference Dates

(1) ADA VII, Astronomical Data Analysis, May 14–18, 2012; Cargese, Corsica, France; `http://ada7.cosmostat.org`

(2) 2012 Classification Society Annual Conference, June 14–16, 2012; Pittsburgh, PA, USA; `http://cs2012.stat.cmu.edu/`

(3) IMPS 2012 — International Meeting of the Psychometric Society, July 10–12, 2012; Lincoln, NE; `http://www.psychometrika.org/meeting/2012/index.html`

(4) 6th International Conference on Implicative Statistics 2012, November 7–10, 2012; Caen, France; `http://sites.univ-lyon2.fr/asi6/`