The Thomas M. Cover Dissertation Award

Proposal by Abbas El Gamal

IT Society BoG meeting

ISIT 2012

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- His PhD thesis and follow-on work represent key pioneering contributions to "statistical learning"

- His broadcast channel paper pioneered network information theory

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- To celebrate Tom's legacy and to encourage future generations of IT researchers/educators to follow his example, I propose an IT Society outstanding dissertation award in his name

Thomas M. Cover Dissertation Award

Modeled after INFORMS George B. Dantzig Dissertation Award

The Thomas M. Cover Dissertation Award is given to an original and innovative doctoral dissertation in any theoretical area in information sciences, including but not limited to Shannon information theory, coding theory, learning theory, quantum information and computing, complexity theory, and applications of information theory in probability and statistics. The award is given annually at the ISIT conference.

All certificates read as follows: For an outstanding dissertation in the mathematical foundations of the information sciences.

Description

The Thomas M. Cover Dissertation Award serves to promote excellence in
theoretical research in the information sciences. The winner will receive an
award of $xx. The prize will be awarded annually at the ISIT conference.
Runner up dissertation(s) will be automatically considered a second time
without re-applying (although the nominator may, optionally, wish to
update letters of recommendation).

Each nominated doctoral dissertation must:

- Be written primarily by the nominee within two years of the nomination
  deadline
- Present original ideas obtained predominantly by the nominee
- Clearly illustrate and demonstrate originality

Nomination procedure

The nominee's PhD advisor should submit the following items by xxx:

- An electronic copy of the dissertation
- A summary of the dissertation (less than 5 double-spaced, 12 font pages) highlighting the significance of the problem, and the novelty of the results
- A refereed journal or conference paper based on the thesis to assist the award committee in evaluating the contribution of the work
- CV of the nominee
- A letter of recommendation from the nominee's thesis advisor that describes the significance of the research and comments on the originality of the work
- A letter of recommendation from a senior researcher in the area of the nominee who is not in the institution from which the nominee graduated or is currently affiliated

The above items should be sent electronically to xxx

Funding

- Initial funding will come from my Shannon award money

- Subsequent funding may come from:
  - Tom students and colleagues
  - Industry sponsors

Some questions

- How much should the monetary award be?

- What should the time limit be?

- Should we have runner up award, and honorable mentions?

- Submission date for award?

- Committee composition