Information Theory Society Membership Committee Update

Elza Erkip

July 2016 BoG Meeting, ISIT
Membership Committee

2016 Members

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2016 Padovani Lecturer Announced

Helmut Bölcskei has been selected as the 2016 Padovani Lecturer.

We are happy to announce that Helmut Bölcskei has been selected as the 2016 Padovani Lecturer. He will deliver the lecture, entitled "The Mathematics of Deep Learning", on June 22, 2016 at the 2016 North American School of Information Theory hosted by Duke University.

9th North American School of Information Theory

June 21-23, 2016
Duke University, Durham, NC
Chapter of the Year

Benelux Chapter on Information Theory

A. 2015 European School of Information Theory
The 2015 European School of Information Theory was held in Zandvoort, The Netherlands, from April 20 to 24. Zandvoort is located close to Amsterdam on the North Sea coast. The school hosted 112 participants, including 89 young researchers, in particular PhD students and a number of PostDocs and MSc students. The school was organized according to the same format as previous schools in Tallinn, Estonia (2014), Ohrid, Macedonia (2013), and Antalya, Turkey (2012).

B. 36th WIC Symposium On Information Theory in The Benelux

C. Midwintermeeting

Board Composition
Jasper Goseling, University Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands
Vincent Rijmen (treasurer), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
Jos Weber (secretary), Technische Universiteit Delft, The Netherlands
Frans Willems (chair), Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, The Netherlands
Peter de With (vice-chair), Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, The Netherlands
## Distinguished Lecturer Program

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<th>2015–2016 lecturers</th>
<th>presentations</th>
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<td>Alexandros Dimakis (2015–2016)</td>
<td>Communication Rates for Phase Noise Channels</td>
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<td>Spanish IT Chapter Doctoral School San Sebastian, Spain, July 3, 2015</td>
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<td>Linköping University, Sweden, June 2, 2016</td>
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<td>Andrea Montanari (2015–2016)</td>
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<td>Ron M. Roth (2016–2017)</td>
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<td>Martin J. Wainwright (2016–2017)</td>
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Distinguished Lecturer Program

• Activity level low
  – Many chapters busy with Shannon Centenary?

• Ask the lecturers to organize their own tours.
  – Every two years?

• Thanks to Anand Sarwate and Mine Alsan for re-organizing the DL web page.
Student Subcommittee

2016 Members

Chair (01/01/16 until 12/31/18)
Thomas Courtade
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Chair (12/01/13 until 12/31/16)
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Student Co-chair II (04/19/16 until 04/19/17)
Mine Alsan
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Student Subcommittee

• Extended membership to 3 Post-Docs (Qi Chen, Bernhard Geiger, Jonathan Scarlett) and 2 graduate students (Mine Aslan, Basak Guler)

• *Started a facebook page*

• Started a Slack group

• *Running the Student Corner on the IT Newsletter*
Student Subcommittee

- CISS 2016 Lunch Research Roundtable Event
  - Pizza served
  - *Seven roundtables, each with a different topic and moderator*

- ISIT 2016 Meet the Shannon Awardee Event
  - On Thursday
  - T-shirt and lunch served
  - *Interview with Prof. Holevo*
Outreach Subcommittee

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Mentoring Program: Status

• ~30 (more or less) active pairings, but:
  – Few new applications
  – Only a few pairings really stick
  – Small pool of mentors

• Currently surveying both mentors and mentees to assess effectiveness of the existing program.

• Idea from Allerton 2015 BoG meeting: create space/time at ISIT for mentoring...
Round Table Mentoring

• Nine simultaneous round table discussions on various career-related topics, accompanied by hors d’oeuvres and led by mentors with expertise to share:

I. INDUSTRY OR ACADEMIA?
   led by Emina Soljanin and Chao Tian
II. EFFECTIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES
   led by Emre Telatar and Sergio Verdú
III. FUNDING YOUR RESEARCH
   led by Rick Brown and Núria Sebastián Gallés
IV. ACHIEVING WORK-LIFE BALANCE
   led by Negar Kiyavash and Anand Sarwate
V. TIME MANAGEMENT
   led by Helmut Bölcskei and Frank Kschischang

VI. BRANCHING INTO ALLIED FIELDS
    led by Alex Dimakis and Olgica Milenkovic
VII. NAVIGATING THE ACADEMIC JOB MARKET
    led by Giuseppe Durisi and Yury Polyanskiy
VIII. NAVIGATING THE TENURE TRACK
    led by Natasha Devroye and Ashish Khisti
IX. THE POSTDOC EXPERIENCE
    led by Yücel Altuğ and Aly El Gamal

Monday (tomorrow), 19:00 - 20:00
Directory

This is a (necessarily incomplete) list of women active in information theory maintained by the Women in Information Theory (WITHITS) group (as of June 2016, Natasha Devroye). If you are organizing an event related to information theory, this list serves as a resource for potential speakers.

If you are a woman working in area of information science, please fill in the following form to add (or remove) yourself from the directory (or update existing information): http://goo.gl/forms/UYLbUpalT4kDofTo2
Additions are almost instantaneous, but removals and changes may have some delay.

The Women in Information Theory also have a google group. See https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/withits

Natasha Devroye

Lalitha Sankar
WITHITS

• Started a WITHITS google group – also participation from postdocs and researchers.
• Created a Women in Information Sciences list - analogous to the the Women in Machine Learning list.
• ISIT 2016: 'Samoan Circle' event
  – Monday at lunch.
  – New model for discussions.
  – Circular seating layout and a desired democratic participation by attendees on a host of issues related to woman and academia/research.
Changes to the Membership Committee

• Schools: committee by itself.
• Reorg of remaining subcommittees to facilitate interaction.
• WITHITS details currently not in the Bylaws
  – Under Outreach? Membership?
  – How is the chair selected?
• Update Outreach Committee mission and mentoring program
  – Junior Professionals
• Stay tuned!