

IN MEMORIAM

Richard C. Dubes

Richard C. Dubes, Professor of Computer Science at Michigan State University, former President of the Classification Society of North America (1990-1992), and member of the Council of the International Federation of Classification Societies, died 23 December 1993 at the age of 59 after a long struggle with cancer.

Professor Dubes devoted his entire professional life of 37 years to research, teaching, and public service activities at Michigan State University. He was recognized worldwide for his work in clustering and pattern recognition and revered on campus for excellence in the classroom.

With degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Professor Dubes moved to the Department of Computer Science when it was established in the late 1960's at Michigan State University.

His areas of expertise included exploratory data analysis, cluster analysis, and Markov random fields. Among his major contributions was initiating research in the important area of cluster validity. Professor Dubes wrote two textbooks and more than fifty articles, three of which received awards as outstanding contributions from the Pattern Recognition Society. His 1988 book, *Algorithms for Clustering Data* (co-authored with A. K. Jain), is clearly one of the best available on clustering.

He was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Pattern Recognition Society, Sigma XI, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Professor Dubes was host of a very successful meeting of the Classification Society of North American in 1992 and was a member of the Editorial Board of this *Journal*, in addition to being an Associate Editor of *Pattern Recognition*.

"I do not know of any other person with higher standards of professional integrity or with a stronger sense of fairness and care for others," says Anil K. Jain, a faculty colleague and personal friend. "He provided a helping hand to anyone who approached him."

At the time of his death, Professor Dubes was developing a computer system to locate tumors in mammograms. He is survived by his wife Marylyn, daughter Jennifer, mother Evelyn Dahly, and brother Michael Dubes.

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