August 27th Newsletter

To: All CS Undergraduates

From: the CS Academic Office

CS Undergraduate Newsletter

August 27, 2007

About the Newsletter: This newsletter is one of your primary sources of information from the Department of Computer Science. Every week, we'll send out important advising information, announcements, job/internship/contest opportunities, and information on upcoming events, symposia and lectures. We try to confine our mass emailings to this one weekly newsletter (though we'll occasionally send out mass-email announcements if they are particularly urgent). Our apologies if you're receiving this email despite having graduated or left the university. Our mailing lists are not quite up to date yet.

Advising and Course Information
* Welcome!
* CORRECTION: CS 100 begins Tuesday, October 2
* Proficiency exams for CS 173 (Discrete Mathematical Structures) and CS 225 (Data Structures and Software Principles)
* Some dates to keep in mind

Jobs, Internships, Contests and other opportunities
* Call for Participation in a NEW research-focused conference for undergraduate women in CS to be held at Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA), Oct. 5-7, 2007
* Especially for Students interested in Human-Computer Interaction: Join the CALLAS community (Conveying Affectiveness in Leading-edge Living Adaptive Systems)
* *Cazoodle Inc., a spin-off from Computer Science of UIUC, is looking for "Software Coder" and "Cluster Manager" to join force for expanding the frontier of Web search: to build next generation, "data aware" search engines. Maybe that's you!!
* CS Student Awards Website. Also: Microsoft Fellowship & CRA Award Deadlines.

Lectures, Symposia, etc.
* Argonne National Laboratories 18th Annual Symposium for Undergraduates in Science, Engineering and Mathematics - Present results of your research. Registration and abstract due September 15th (see details below).
* Colloquium: "Exploring the Power of Links in Data Mining," Professor Jiawei Han, Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, August 27 (Monday), 2007 at 4:00 p.m., 1404 Siebel Center for Computer Science

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ADVISING AND COURSE INFORMATION

* Welcome (or welcome back) for the Fall 2007 semester. We hope you've had a good summer and are ready for a successful semester. The staff in the CS Academic Office -- the advising office for all CS, Math & CS, and Statistics & CS majors -- is here to answer questions about degree requirements, policies and procedures and just about any other issue pertaining to your academics here at UIUC. Office hours are 8:00 to 11:45 am mornings and 1:00 to 4:45 afternoons, M-F. On rare occasions, the office may shut down for meetings or other events, but we usually limit these to an hour at most during low-traffic times. You can also ask advising questions by emailing Steve Herzog, the full-time CS advisor, at smherzog@uiuc.edu. To find out more about the academic office and the CS advising resources, visit the CS website's undergraduate advising wiki at https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/display/undergradProg/CS+Department+Advising.

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A special note about CS 100 for new freshmen: If you're a new freshman enrolled in CS 100 and you're wondering why the course doesn't appear on their schedule for the week on UI Integrate, here's the explanation: CS 100 doesn't begin until Tuesday, October 10th. A week or so before the class begins, we'll be sure to send a reminder to everyone enrolled.
* Proficiency exams for CS 173 (Discrete Mathematical Structures) and CS 225 (Data Structures and Software Principles) will be held Monday night, 9/3, at 8pm, in 2102 SiebelCenter. If you are interested in signing up for either of these exams, please email Cinda: heeren@cs.uiuc.edu, by 8/31.

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* Some Important Dates To Keep In Mind:*
  * Monday, September 3: Labor Day - No classes
  * Wednesday, September 5: Last day to add a full semester course
  * Friday, October 12: Last day to drop a course or change to Credit/No Credit (i.e. pass/fail)
  * Monday, October 15: Time tickets for early registration for spring available on Student Self-Service (UI-Integrate) -- this means you can find out when your earliest registration time will be** Monday, October 29: First day of early registration for Spring 2008 (see** http://www.oar.uiuc.edu/current/registration/ to find out how registration times are distributed
  * Saturday, November 17 - Sunday, November 25: Thanksgiving Break - No classes
  * Friday, December 7: Last day of instruction
  * Saturday, December 8: Reading day
  ** Monday, December 10 - Saturday, December 15: Final exam period (don't count on being able to leave campus until December 16)!*

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NEW COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

FALL 2007

CS 498

Prof. Julia Hockenmaier

JH3, CRN 42391 - Undergraduate OR graduate students

JH4, CRN 50658 - Graduate students ONLY

2:00-3:15 Tuesday/Thursday

1111 SiebelCenter

TOPIC:


COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What would it take for a computer to read, and understand, a newspaper? In order to construct a representation of the meaning of a text, it is necessary to parse its sentences, i.e. identify their grammatical structures. Although compilers contain parsers too, natural languages are both more complex and more ambiguous than programming languages. Computational linguists have developed a number of expressive grammar formalisms that are intended to capture these additional complexities, as well as parsing models that use machine-learning techniques to find the most likely structure of a sentence. In order to achieve wide coverage (i.e. be able to deal with actual newspaper text) and high accuracy, these models require significant amounts of labeled training data — so-called treebanks, or corpora of sentences that were annotated with the correct analysis. In order to create a parser for a specific formalism, it is thus often necessary to first translate a treebank into the desired formalism.

This course will give an overview over the most commonly used formalisms in natural language processing and current research on grammar extraction and wide-coverage parsing.

Prerequisites: basic exposure to AI and /or machine learning, or an intro to natural language processing.

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JOBS, INTERNSHIPS, CONTESTS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

* Cazoodle Inc., a spin-off from Computer Science of UIUC, is looking for *Software Coder* and *Cluster Manager* to join force for expanding the frontier of Web search: to build next generation, “data aware” search engines. Maybe that's you!!

* Common-sense CS background.

* Quick learner-- and we'll teach you!
Linux clusters, AJAX, Python, Java, C#.
* 10-20 hours per week.
* $13-$20 per hour.
* Let's talk:
  jobs@cazoodle.com
  admin.cazoodle@gmail.com
And, Cazoodle is:
* http://www.cazoodle.com/
* at the ResearchPark (near Assembly Hall).
* average age: 24.8 years as of August 1, 2007.
* also known as http://apartment.cazoodle.com

* CS Student Awards Website. Also: Microsoft Fellowship & CRA Award Deadlines.

As the academic year gets underway, I am writing to direct your attention to the Student Awards Information Agora page for the Department of Computer Science, where you can find a listing of relevant upcoming award, scholarship, and fellowship opportunities, as well as additional resources. https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/display/studentawards

Many of these are external opportunities, but some (at the top of the page) will require an application through the Student Awards Committee for the selection of an official nominee or winner for the Department. I hope that you will take a look at the page, and I wish you the best success in the new school year.

Also, at this time, I am announcing Departmental deadlines for the Microsoft Research Graduate Fellowship and the CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Award Program. Additional information and requirements are available on Agora.

1) Microsoft Research Graduate Fellowship
When: Internal Deadline - 9/21/2007
Who: 2nd and 3rd year Ph.D. students
Award: 100% of tuition and fees plus a $20,000 stipend
https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/x/BIEP

2) CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Award Program
When: Internal Deadline - 9/21/2007
Who: Undergraduates engaged in research; seniors are preferred.
Award: $1,000
https://agora.cs.uiuc.edu/x/24AP

On behalf of the Student Awards Committee,
Sincerely,
Colin Robertson

* Call for Participation in a NEW research-focused conference for undergraduate women in CS to be held at Carnegie Mellon University *(Pittsburgh, PA), Oct. 5-7, 2007*

OurCS: Opportunities for Undergraduate Research In Computer Science
http://www.cs.cmu.edu/ourcs/

Kindly Sponsored by Microsoft Research

We are pleased to announce that Frances Allen, 2006 Turing Award Winner
will be our Distinguished Speaker.

Other Keynote speakers include
- Jennifer Chayes, Co-founder and Co-manager, Microsoft Theory Group
  and Research Area Manager at Microsoft Research.
- Jeannette Wing, Presidents’ Professor of Computer Science, Carnegie
  Mellon,
  and Assistant Director of CISE, National Science Foundation.

The conference will give undergraduate women opportunities to:

-- Meet others who share their curiosity and interest in computer science
-- Discuss their research
-- Tackle research problems with leaders from industry and academia
-- Learn about life in graduate school
-- Present a talk and/or poster: great for first-timers!

Check out the website for details: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/ourcs/

* Especially for Students interested in Human-Computer Interaction: Join the CALLAS community (Conveying Affectiveness in Leading-edge Living Adaptive Systems)

My name is Danny Lucchesi, a '03 grad from the U of I and I came across your department at UIUC as I was researching affective computing initiatives at the university. I'm working on behalf of a project called CALLAS here in Italy, which I'd like to present to your department. The CALLAS (Conveying Affectiveness in Leading-edge Living Adaptive Systems) Integrated Project intends to develop affective interface technology which will be central to the new media experience such as: Digital Theatre, Interactive TV, Augmented Reality Art, and Interactive public performances. We would like to extend an invitation to visit our project website (www.callas-newmedia.eu) and register as a member into the CALLAS community. We don't have any American community members yet, and as an alum I'd love to incorporate some members into our community from UIUC. I wanted to ask if it would be ok to send some CALLAS brochures that perhaps could be set out for some students or colleagues to take a look at.

CALLAS is co-financed by the European Union within the Sixth Framework Programme for RTD - (Contract IST-034800) and has started on 1 November 2006.

CALLAS incorporates an open and collaborative network of professionals and organisations around the world who will actively take part within the project. This community will have access to CALLAS technologies and have priority in the adoption of CALLAS solutions.
We would like to invite you to visit our website and see what CALLAS can offer. Membership to the community is free and provides users with the opportunity to interact with a network working together to advance the state of the art in multimodal affective applications.

Thanks and looking forward to hearing from you,

Danny Lucchesi
CALLAS Communications
Metaware SpA
Pisa, Italy

Lectures, Symposia, etc.

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Argonne National Laboratory is hosting the 18th Annual Symposium for Undergraduates in Science, Engineering and Mathematics, to be held at the Laboratory on Friday and Saturday, November 2-3, 2007. Last year the Symposium was very successful in generating interest and enthusiasm among over 400 persons in attendance including undergraduates, Argonne scientists, university faculty, and graduate students. Please encourage your undergraduate students who are engaged in research to present the results of their work at this year's Argonne Symposium. Undergraduates not involved in research are also encouraged to attend to learn about the various research opportunities that are available at Argonne. All Symposium presenters and attendees are required to pre-register and submit abstracts online by the September 14, deadline. The registration fee includes a reception/banquet that will be held on Friday evening, November 2, 2007.

Instructions for preparation of abstracts, abstract submission, and registration information are available online at "http://www.dep.anl.gov/p_undergrad/ugsymp." We would appreciate it if you would post the Symposium Flyer where undergraduates are likely to see it. Selected abstracts and final program information will be posted on our website by October 15, 2007.

Thank you for your help in promoting this important event. Please distribute to your undergraduates.

Sincerely,

The Symposium Organizing Committee

Regards,

L. Phaire-Washington, PhD
Senior Program Leader
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue/DEP 223
Argonne IL 60439-4845
Tel: 630-252-1751
Fax: 630-252-3193

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COMPUTER SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

(and Graduate Seminar)

Exploring the Power of Links in Data Mining

Professor Jiawei Han
Department of Computer Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

August 27 (Monday), 2007 at 4:00 p.m.
1404 Siebel Center for Computer Science

Algorithms like PageRank and HITS have been developed in late 1990s to explore links among Web pages to discover authoritative pages and hubs.

Links have also been popularly used in citation analysis and social network analysis. We show that the power of links can also be explored in data mining for classification, clustering, information integration, and other interesting tasks. Some recent results of our research that explore the
crucial information hidden in links will be introduced, including (1) multi-relational classification, (2) user-guided clustering, (3) link-based clustering, (4) object distinction analysis, and (5) veracity analysis among conflicting web information providers. The power of links in data mining will be demonstrated in these studies.