



Special Track on *Applied Natural Language Processing*

The track on Applied Natural Language Processing is a forum for researchers working in natural language processing (NLP), computational linguistics (CL), and related areas. The rapid pace of development of online materials, most of them in textual form or text combined with other media (visual, audio), has led to a revived interest for tools capable to understand, organize and mine those materials. Novel human-computer interfaces, for instance talking heads, can benefit from language understanding and generation techniques with big impact on user satisfaction. Dialogue-based intelligent tutoring systems require advanced dialogue processing, language understanding and generation components in order to assess students' natural language inputs and provide appropriate feedback. Moreover, language can facilitate human-computer interaction for the handicapped (no typing needed) and elderly leading to an ever increasing user base for computer systems.

The goal of the ANLP track is to inform researchers of current project and studies that identify, investigate, and (begin to) resolve issues that relate to human/computer language interaction. Some of the many areas emphasized by the ANLP track to include for contributions include multilingual processing, learning environments, multimodal communication, bioNLP, spam filtering, language acquisition (first and second), textual assessment, language varieties, materials development, generic classification, educational applications, information retrieval, speech processing, machine learning, knowledge representations, English for specific purposes, textual assessment indices, coreference resolution, word sense disambiguation, dialogue management and systems, language generation, language models, ontologies, and reasoning.

For 2012, there were 15 submissions, out of which 10 were accepted as long papers and 3 as poster presentations. The accepted papers span methods and applications across an array of disciplines making the track appealing to researchers from different walks of life including artificial intelligence, cognitive science, and linguistics, to name a few. Philip McCarthy, assistant professor in linguistics at the University of Memphis and former organizer of the ANLP special track, will deliver the keynote speech as an introduction to this year's special track.