

Alan Ritter

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail: aritter@cs.washington.edu
Address: AC101 Paul G. Allen Center, Box 352350
185 Stevens Way
Seattle WA 98195-2350
Phone: (360) 820-1090
WWW: <http://www.cs.washington.edu/homes/aritter/>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Natural Language Processing in Social Media, Latent Variable Models of Lexical Semantics, Machine Reading, Text Mining, Intelligent User Interfaces.

EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle, WA USA

Ph.D. in Computer Science & Engineering (Expected Spring 2013)

- Advisers: Oren Etzioni, Mausam
- Committee: Emily Bender, Bill Dolan, Luke Zettlemoyer
- Thesis Topic: Information Extraction in Social Media
- Fall 2007 - Present

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA USA

B.S./M.S., Computer Science, December 2006

- Overall GPA: 4.00

AWARDS

Facebook Fellowship Finalist (2012)

EMNLP-CoNLL Best Reviewer Awards (2012)

Best Student Paper Award for *Learning to Generalize for Complex Selection Tasks* at IUI (2009)

NDSEG Fellowship (2008)

WWU Outstanding Graduating Senior in Computer Science (2006)

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Microsoft Research, Redmond WA USA

Intern - Natural Language Processing Group

June 2009 - September 2009

Crawled Twitter to gather a corpus of conversations. Designed a generative model of dialogue, and conducted experiments to demonstrate the feasibility of unsupervised modeling of dialogue acts in new media. Investigated data-driven response generation in Social media. This work resulted in publication at [NAACL 2010] and [EMNLP 2011a].

Supervisors: Colin Cherry, Bill Dolan

Microsoft Research, Redmond WA USA

Intern - Knowledge Tools Group (Machine Learning Department)

June 2008 - August 2008

Investigated new methods for Smart Selection in the file browser domain. Proposed the idea of *Learning to Generalize* in Interactive Machine Learning. Implemented a prototype *Smart File Browser*, and conducted User Studies. This work resulted in an award paper at [IUI 2009].

Supervisor: Sumit Basu

University of Washington, Seattle WA USA

Software Engineer

April 2007 - September 2007

Implemented updates and maintained TEXTRUNNER, an Open IE based search engine. Developed a web-scale hypenym extractor.

Supervisors: Stephen Soderland, Oren Etzioni

Microsoft, Redmond WA USA

Software Design Engineer

January 2007 - March 2007

Windows Media DRM group.

Naval Research Laboratory, Marine Meteorology Division, Monterey, CA USA

Intern - Data Assimilation Group

June 2006 - August 2006

Used TAU (Tuning and Analysis Utilities) to instrument, profile, analyze, and improve scalability of research and operational NRL Data Assimilation Fortran/MPI code. Taught a class on automatic instrumentation of parallel programs for NRL scientists. Presented a Seminar on scalability enhancements to NAVDAS.

Supervisor: William F. Campbell

The NetBSD Project

Google "Summer of Code" Grant

June 2005 - August 2005

Ported FreeBSD's NDIS Compatibility Layer to NetBSD.

Mentor: Philip A. Nelson

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

University of Washington, Seattle WA USA

Teaching Assistant - Machine Learning

Jan 2009 - March 2009, Jan 2011 - March 2011

<http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/cse446/10wi/>

<http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/cse446/11wi/>

Helped to design and grade homework assignments, answered student questions one-on-one, prepared and presented an hour long lecture on Neural Networks.

Supervisor: Oren Etzioni

MENTORING

Sam Clark

March 2010 - June 2011

Supervised Sam's work annotating a corpus of Tweets with Part of Speech (POS) and Chunk tags, and building a POS tagger and Chunker for Tweets. Sam is now working at a Seattle startup, *Decide.com*

PATENTS

US Patent Application US20110010669

"Items Selection Via Automatic Generalization"

INVITED TALKS

"Modeling Conversations in Social Media"

Microsoft Research, September 2011

"Extracting a Calendar from Twitter"

Proteus Group, New York University, September 2012

Wavii, April 2012

Facebook, March 2012

Google Research, September 2011

Yahoo! Labs, September 2011

Twitter, May 2011

Information Sciences Institute, University of Southern California, February 2011

UW CSE Industrial Affiliates Meeting, October 2011

“What Can Machines Learn by Reading Tweets?”
ICT workshop on Reasoning with Text - <http://projects.ict.usc.edu/rwt2011/>
February 2011

“Learning to Generalize for Complex Selection Tasks”
UW CSE Industrial Affiliates Meeting
October 2009

“Modeling Conversations on Twitter”
UW/Microsoft Quarterly Symposium on Computational Linguistics
October 2009

“Finding Contradictions in Text Using Functions”
Boeing Research
February 2008

PRESS “Forget today’s news: Zapaday will break future news”
<http://thenextweb.com/media/2012/05/01/forget-todays-news-zapaday-will-break-future-news/>
The Next Web
May 2012

“Hello, computer!” UW prof and students search outside the box”
<http://www.geekwire.com/2011/computer-uw-prof-students-search-box/>
GeekWire
November 2011

TUTORIALS “Latent Variable Models of Lexical Semantics”
Yahoo! Machine Learning Seminar (@ UW)
January 2012

SERVICE Co-Organizer
SemEval-2013 Task 2: Sentiment Analysis in Twitter

Session Chair
EMNLP 2012 (Social Media)

Journal Reviewing
JAIR (2012), ACM Transactions on Information Systems (2012)

Program Committee
EMNLP (2010,2011,2012), ACL (2012,2013), NAACL-HLT (2012,2013), AAAI (2012), EACL (2012), ICWSM (2012), LREC (2012), IJCAI (2011)

Workshop Reviewing
AAAI Spring Symposium on Analyzing Microtext (2013), “@NLP can u tag #user-generated.content ?!” (LREC 2012), Workshop on Language in Social Media (2011, 2012), Workshop on Analyzing Microtext (2011), Workshop on Relational Models of Semantics (2011), Workshop on Information Extraction and Knowledge Acquisition (2011), ACL Student Research Workshop (2012), AKBC-WEKEX (2012), CIKM workshop on Politics, Elections and Data (2012)

External Reviewer
IUI (2013), ACL (2011), AAAI (2010), UIST (2009)

PUBLICATIONS

Alan Ritter, Mausam, Oren Etzioni, Sam Clark
“Open Domain Event Extraction from Twitter”
Proceedings of KDD 2012

Wei Xu, Alan Ritter, Bill Dolan, Ralph Grishman, Colin Cherry
“Paraphrasing for Style”
Proceedings of Coling 2012

Alan Ritter, Sam Clark, Mausam, Oren Etzioni
“Named Entity Recognition in Tweets: An Experimental Study”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2011

Alan Ritter, Colin Cherry, Bill Dolan
“Data-Driven Response Generation in Social Media”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2011

Alan Ritter, Mausam and Oren Etzioni
“A Latent Dirichlet Allocation Method for Selectional Preferences”
Proceedings of ACL 2010

Alan Ritter, Colin Cherry and Bill Dolan
“Unsupervised Modeling of Twitter Conversations”
Proceedings of HLT-NAACL 2010

Alan Ritter and Sumit Basu
“Learning to Generalize for Complex Selection Tasks”
Best Student Paper Award
Proceedings of IUI 2009

Alan Ritter, Stephen Soderland and Oren Etzioni
“What is this Anyway? Automatic Hypernym Discovery”
Proceedings of the AAAI 2009 Spring Symposium on Learning by Reading and Learning to Read

Alan Ritter, Doug Downey, Stephen Soderland, and Oren Etzioni
“It’s a Contradiction – No, It’s Not: A Case Study using Functional Relations”
Proceedings of EMNLP 2008

Alan Ritter, James W. Hearne, Philip A. Nelson
“Distributional Word Clustering in Parallel”
ISCA PDCS 2006

J. Michael Meehan, Alan L. Ritter
“Machine Learning Approach to Tuning Distributed Operating System Load Balancing Algorithms”
ISCA PDCS 2006

Alan Ritter
“NDIS Network Driver”
Dr. Dobb’s Journal
January 2006

REFERENCES

Sumit Basu
Researcher
Machine Learning Department
Microsoft Research
☎ 425 706 7971
✉ sumitb@microsoft.com

Oren Etzioni
WRF Entrepreneurship Professor
Computer Science and Engineering
University of Washington
☎ 206 685 3035
✉ etzioni@cs.washington.edu

Luke Zettlemoyer
Assistant Professor
Computer Science and Engineering
University of Washington
☎ 206 685 1227
✉ lsz@cs.washington.edu

Bill Dolan
Research Manager
Natural Language Processing Group
Microsoft Research
☎ 425 706 3709
✉ billdol@microsoft.com

Mausam
Research Assistant Professor
Computer Science and Engineering
University of Washington
☎ 206 685 1964
✉ mausam@cs.washington.edu