

Alan Ritter

CONTACT INFORMATION	<p><i>E-mail:</i> aritter@cs.washington.edu</p> <p><i>Address:</i> AC101 Paul G. Allen Center, Box 352350 185 Stevens Way Seattle WA 98195-2350</p> <p><i>Phone:</i> (360) 820-1090</p> <p><i>WWW:</i> http://www.cs.washington.edu/homes/aritter/</p>
INTERESTS	Natural Language Processing in Social Media, Latent Variable Models of Lexical Semantics, Machine Reading, Text Mining, Intelligent User Interfaces.
EDUCATION	<p>University of Washington, Seattle, WA USA</p> <p>Ph.D. in Computer Science & Engineering (Expected Spring 2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisers: Oren Etzioni, Mausam• Thesis Topic: Information Extraction in Social Media• Fall 2007 - Present <p>Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA USA</p> <p>B.S./M.S., Computer Science, December 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall GPA: 4.00
AWARDS	<p>Facebook Fellowship Finalist (2012)</p> <p>EMNLP-CoNLL Best Reviewer Awards (2012)</p> <p>Best Student Paper Award for <i>Learning to Generalize for Complex Selection Tasks</i> at IUI (2009)</p> <p>NDSEG Fellowship (2008)</p> <p>WWU Outstanding Graduating Senior in Computer Science (2006)</p>
INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE	<p>Microsoft Research, Redmond WA USA</p> <p><i>Intern - Natural Language Processing Group</i> June 2009 - September 2009</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Supervisors: Colin Cherry, Bill Dolan</p> <p>Microsoft Research, Redmond WA USA</p> <p><i>Intern - Knowledge Tools Group (Machine Learning Department)</i> June 2008 - August 2008</p> <p>Investigated new methods for Smart Selection in the file browser domain. Proposed the idea of <i>Learning to Generalize</i> in Interactive Machine Learning. Implemented a prototype <i>Smart File Browser</i>, and conducted User Studies. This work resulted in an award paper at IUI 2009.</p> <p>Supervisor: Sumit Basu</p> <p>University of Washington, Seattle WA USA</p> <p><i>Software Engineer</i> April 2007 - September 2007</p> <p>Implemented updates and maintained TEXTRUNNER, an Open IE based search engine. Developed a web-scale hypernym extractor.</p> <p>Supervisors: Stephen Soderland, Oren Etzioni</p>

Microsoft, Redmond WA USA

Software Design Engineer
Windows Media DRM group.

January 2007 - March 2007

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

Semval-3 Task 27: 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), 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

ACL (2011), AAAI (2010), UIST (2009)

PUBLICATIONS

Alan Ritter, Mausam, Oren Etzioni, Sam Clark

“Open Domain Event Extraction from Twitter”

Proceedings of KDD 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