

E ACM IUI 2016 Conference Highlights

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Overview of ACM IUI 2016

As co-chairs of the 21st ACM International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (ACM IUI 2016), we are pleased to share with the SIGAI community our thoughts and experiences with this year's edition of the conference. This year's conference was held in Sonoma, California, USA (<http://iui.acm.org/2016/>), a short drive to the north of San Francisco in the heart of California's wine production region.

ACM IUI is "where HCI meets AI," or where the academic research communities of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) intersect. As the premier international forum for reporting outstanding research and development on intelligent user interfaces, the conference welcomes submissions describing work at the cross-section of these two fields and other related fields, such as psychology, behavioral science, cognitive science, computer graphics, design, the arts, and many others. Members of the ACM IUI community are interested in improving the symbiosis between humans and computers, increasing the intelligence of both in the process.

Technical Program

This year's call for papers attracted 194 long and short paper submissions, 31 poster paper submissions, 11 demo paper submissions, and 17 student consortium submissions. The final program of the conference included 2 keynotes, 49 long and short papers (25.3% acceptance rate), 15 posters, 6 demos, 2 workshops, 1 tutorial, and 12 student consortium papers. Two distinguished speakers opened the first and third days of the conference with well received keynote presentations. Xavier Amatriain, VP of Engineering at Quora, opened the conference speaking

on the topic of the "Past, Present, and Future of Recommender Systems: An Industry Perspective." Professor Elisabeth André, from Augsburg University and a long-time member of the ACM IUI community, closed the conference with a talk on the topic of "Socially-Sensitive Interfaces: From Offline Studies to Interactive Experiences."

Two papers were honored with awards at this year's conference. The best paper award was given to the paper titled "Adaptive Contextualization: Combating Bias During High-Dimensional Visualization and Data Selection" authored by David Gotz, Shun Sun, and Nan Cao. The best student paper, given to a paper first authored by a student, was won by "TagFlip: Active Mobile Music Discovery with Social Tags" authored by Mohsen Kamalzadeh, Christoph Kralj, Torsten Mller, and Michael Sedlmair.

The conference also featured four breakout sessions: 2 workshops, a tutorial, and the student consortium. This year the breakouts followed the conference rather than being scheduled on the day before conference, as has been typical in previous years. Of particular note was the very well attended tutorial on "Evaluating Intelligent User Interfaces with User Experiments" given by Bart Knijnenburg.

ACM IUI maintains a special relationship with ACM Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems (ACM TiiS, <http://tiis.acm.org>). A selection of ACM TiiS papers published in the last year were offered the opportunity to participate in the conference program, and the authors of 6 TiiS papers presented their work during the conference. Authors of accepted ACM IUI 2016 long papers will also have the opportunity to submit extended versions of their papers to ACM TiiS for consideration for a special issue titled "Highlights of ACM IUI 2016."

A Thriving Community

This year's ACM IUI attracted about 150 attendees from around the world. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from them, who commented on the exciting keynotes, the warm hospitality and intimacy of the venue, and the quality of the conference organization.

The conference could not be organized without the help of a large number of individuals who generously volunteered much of their own time. Their names can be found on the conference web site (<http://iui.acm.org/2016/committee.html>). All of the members of the organizing committee have done a fantastic job of coordinating the many moving parts that go into putting on a great conference. We must also particularly thank our two Program Chairs, Cristina Conati and Massimo Zancanaro, the 34 senior program committee members, and the 91 members of the program committee for carrying out a high quality review process. We also want to thank the 19 student volunteers and the 2 student volunteer chairs that led them for helping the conference run so smoothly. Finally, and most important, we must thank the authors for their diligent work that resulted in so many great submissions. Their work allowed us to develop the excellent program that is the enduring heart of the conference.

Another key for any great conference is a collection of strong sponsor organizations and generous corporate supporters. Our sponsors ACM, SIGAI, and SIGCHI are instrumental in making the conference happen year in and year out. This year, SIGAI and SIGCHI were particularly generous in providing financial support for our student travel grants, which enabled 19 students to attend the conference that might not have otherwise. Our corporate supporters, Microsoft, IBM, Google, and Tableau were supremely generous and the conference would be weaker without their contributions.

The planning for next year's conference is already well underway and the event will be held in Limassol, Cyprus from March 13-16, 2017 (<http://iui.acm.org/2017/>). The call for papers is already available for those who are interested. Abstracts for full and short papers will be due October 9, 2016 and completed papers will be due less than a week

later on October 14. We hope that you will consider submitting your original work to the 2017 edition of the conference and look forward to seeing you in Cyprus!



Jeffrey Nichols is a Staff Research Scientist and manager at Google, where he leads efforts on multi-device interaction, automated design of user interfaces and the Internet of Things. Previously, he was a Research Staff

Member at IBM Research, Almaden, where he worked on end-user programming, mobile interaction, and social media analysis. He received his Ph.D. from the Human-Computer Interaction Institute in Carnegie Mellon University School of Computer Science.



John O'Donovan is an Associate Researcher at the Computer Science Department, University of California, Santa Barbara. John received his PhD in Computer Science in 2008 from University College Dublin, Ireland.

His research background is in AI, with a focus on recommender systems. He has a particular interest in modeling trust in social networks, both from data-mining and user interface perspectives. His research on human computer interaction and intelligent interfaces has won multiple best paper awards, including at SocialCom 2013 and IEEE CogSima 2014.



Jalal Mahmud is a Research Staff Member at IBM Almaden Research Center and currently manages the Personality Analytics research group under IBM Watson Innovation. He received his Ph.D. in Computer

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