

2007 ACL NEWSLETTER

It is again time for the ACL newsletter. On behalf of ACL, I would like to wish you a great 2007. I also hope to see all of you at ACL 2007 in Prague (more about this conference below). Please contact me at sekretary@org.aclweb (spellcheck and unscramble before writing) by April 30 if you have any suggestions for interesting activities. We are planning to devote a session at the annual conference to discuss such initiatives.

The membership web site <http://www.aclweb.org/membership> is open for business. You can enroll using our secure server or use the printable form. You can also decide to contribute to the Walker fund which ACL uses to sponsor student activities and travel to annual conferences.

CONFERENCES

ACL-COLING 2006 was a tremendous success. It brought a total of 750 participants to Sydney, the largest city in Australia. The lifetime achievement award (LTA) went to Eva Hajicova of Charles University in Prague. On the LTA honor roll, Eva joins previous winners Aravind Joshi (2002), Makoto Nagao (2003), Karen Sparck Jones (2004), and Martin Kay (2005). Nicoletta Calzolari was the general chair and the local chairs were Robert Dale and Cécile Paris. Claire Cardie and Pierre Isabelle chaired the program committee. The best paper award went to Rion Snow, Daniel Jurafsky, and Andrew Y. Ng. for their paper titled "Semantic taxonomy induction from heterogenous evidence". The two invited talks by Daniel Marcu and Sally McConnell-Ginet were among the highlights of the program. Many thanks to the organizers for putting on such a successful event.

NAACL HLT 2007 will be held April 22–27 in Rochester, NY. The general chair is Candy Sidner while the program is co-chaired by Tanja Schultz, Matthew Stone, and Chengxiang Zhai. Local arrangements are by James Allen, Dan Gildea, and Len Schubert from the University of Rochester. The URL for the conference is <http://www.cs.rochester.edu/meetings/hlt-naacl07/>.

ACL 2007 will take place in Prague two months after NAACL (June 23–30). Eva Hajicova is the local chair while John Carroll is responsible for the overall conference as general chair. The PC is chaired by Annie Zaenen and Antal van den Bosch. Visit www.acl2007.org for more information.

The next IJCNLP will be held in Hyderabad, India in January 2008. COLING 2008 will be in Manchester, England, and ACL 2008 in

Columbus, OH.

ACL EXEC

The ACL executive board underwent a number of changes on January 1. The new members are Nicoletta Calzolari (at-large) and Steven Bird (vice-president-elect). Also joining the exec ex officio (as EACL chair) is Alex Lascarides. I would like to welcome the new members and wish them a productive term. At the same time, we should also acknowledge all the great work done by outgoing members Martha Palmer, Sandra Carberry, Gertjan van Noord, and Walter Daelemans. The nominating committee is now working on the slate for the next elections. The nominees (for treasurer, vice-president-elect, and member at-large) will be announced in Prague. ACL members will then have a month to propose additional names.

IN MEMORIAM

Karen Sparck Jones, one of the most revered researchers in NLP and IR passed away a week ago after a long illness. She was a past ACL president as well as one of our Lifetime Achievement Award winners. Karen will be remembered fondly by the ACL membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If your address changes, please write immediately to Priscilla Rasmussen at acl@org.aclweb (unscramble me). And, please note that the address of our ACL offices has recently changed to ACL, 209 N. Eighth Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

An exciting new ACL initiative (thanks to Peter Turney and many other volunteers) is the ACL wiki: www.aclweb.org/aclwiki. If you haven't visited this amazing resource and contributed to it, please go there now.

Another recent ACL initiative was the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad. For the first time, high school students from around the United States competed for bragging rights. Lori Levin and Thomas Payne were the two co-chairs of this event. Visit www.namclo.org for more information and to get a copy of the problem set.

FINAL WORDS

I would like to finish this newsletter by thanking our members for being involved in a variety of ACL activities and for making our

organization a success.

Drago

ACL Secretary