

\*\*\*\*\* ACL NEWSLETTER \*\*\*\*\*

Greetings and best wishes for the new year. This is the final edition of our hardcopy newsletter; in the future, the newsletter will be available online. This coincides with our inaugural online membership form, which allows you to renew your ACL membership via our secure server. Please go to <http://www.aclweb.org/membership> to access the membership form; you can either submit the form online via the secure server or, if you prefer, print the form and mail a hardcopy of it with your payment. And, remember to renew by April 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid the late fee payable after that date. Very shortly, you will also be able to make online purchases of ACL conference and workshop proceedings. For those of you who have multi-year memberships (and thus don't need to renew), you may want to take this opportunity to make contributions to the Walker Fund, established in memory of Don Walker; it is used to fund student travel to conferences and is an important mechanism to support our student members.

The ACL conference in Barcelona, Spain, hosted jointly with EACL, was very successful, with over 700 participants. The General Chair was Dr. Donia Scott, Program Co-Chairs were Dr. Walter Daelemans and Dr. Marilyn Walker, and Local Arrangements Chair was Dr. Toni Badia. Our sincere thanks to them, and to all of the many individuals who contributed to the success of the conference. ACL-04 continued the tradition begun at ACL-01 of awarding a Best Paper Prize. This year the award went to Diana McCarthy, Rob Koeling, Julie Weeds, and John Carroll for their paper entitled "Finding Predominant Word Senses in Untagged Text". The recipient of the award for Best Student Research Workshop Paper was Leif Arda Neilsen for the paper entitled "Robust VPE Detection using Automatically Parsed Text".

A highlight of ACL-04 was the presentation of the ACL Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof. Karen Sparck-Jones, Professor of Computer and Information (emeritus) at Cambridge University. The award recognizes scientific contributions in computational linguistics, taking into account the originality, depth, breadth, and impact of the entire body of the nominee's work. The ACL president, Dr. Johanna Moore, conferred the award on Dr. Sparck-Jones and noted her many contributions and research leadership in a variety of areas, including information retrieval, text summarization, and multimedia document retrieval. Dr. Sparck-Jones is a Fellow of the British Academy, and served as President of ACL in 1994.

ACL-05 will be held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan from June 25-30, 2005. The conference will be jointly sponsored by NAACL. The General Conference Chair is Dr. Kevin Knight, the Program Co-Chairs are Dr. Hwee Tou Ng and Dr. Kemal Oflazer, and the Local Arrangements Chair is Dr. Dragomir Radev. ACL-05 promises to be an exciting meeting, filled with an excellent program of technical papers, tutorials, workshops, a student session, and industrial displays. The banquet, to be held at the Ford Museum, will undoubtedly be a wonderful excursion. Further information can be found at the conference web site at <http://www.aclweb.org/acl2005>.

Plans are underway for a joint ACL-COLING conference in 2006 in Sydney, Australia. Dr. Nicoletta Calzolari will be the General Conference Chair, Dr. Claire Cardie and Dr. Pierre Isabelle will be the Program Co-Chairs, and Dr. Robert Dale and Dr. Cecile Paris will be Local Arrangements Co-Chairs.

I would like to welcome our newly elected Board members: Dr. Martha Palmer as the new ACL President (who is moving into the President's position after serving as Vice-President last year), Dr. Junichi Tsujii as the ACL Vice President (who served as Vice-President Elect in 2004), Dr. Mark Steedman as the ACL Vice-President Elect, Dr. Keh-Yih Su as the newly-elected member of the Executive Committee and Dr. Gertjan van Noord (newly elected Chair of EACL). We welcome back the remainder of the ACL Executive Committee: Dr. Johanna Moore (Past President), Dr. Kathy McCoy (Treasurer), Dr. Sandra Carberry (Secretary), Dr. Robert Dale (Journals Editor), Dr. Annie Zaenen and Dr. Walter Daelemans (Executive Committee Members), and Dr. Graeme Hirst (Chair of NAACL).

We give our deepest thanks to Dr. Johanna Moore for serving as the ACL President in 2004. Thanks also to Dr. Mark Johnson who is stepping off the Executive Committee after his year as Past-President, and to Dr. Hiroshi Nakagawa who has completed a three-year term on the Executive Committee. Efforts of these individuals over the past several years have contributed significantly to the success of ACL, especially with respect to issues of outreach to other Linguistic Societies and continuing efforts of internationalization. Mark Johnson has kindly offered to serve as ACL Sponsorship Chair, a new role developed to help coordinate each conference's fund-raising efforts. Please get in touch with Mark if you would like to help us keep up the excellent quality of our events.

The North American Chapter has elected Dr. Andy Kehler and Dr. Evelyne Tzoukermann to its Executive Board. Dr. Graeme Hirst continues as Chair of NAACL, Dr. Lillian Lee and Dr. Dragomir Radev continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and Dr. Ellen Riloff and Dr. Janyce Wiebe continue as members of the Executive Board. HLT/NAACL04, the second combined HLT and NAACL conference, was held in Boston, Massachusetts in May 2004. Dr. Julia Hirschberg was General Chair, Dr. Susan Dumais, Dr. Daniel Marcu, and Dr. Salim Roukos were Program Co-Chairs, and

Dr. Christy Doran was Local Arrangements Chair. Plans are underway for holding NAACL-06, hosted by New York University.

The European Chapter has elected new officers. Dr. Gertjan van Noord will serve as Chapter Chair, Dr. Anette Frank as Secretary, Dr. Alex Lascarides as Chair-elect, and Dr. Paola Merlo as Advisory Board Member. Dr. Michael Rosner will continue as Treasurer, and Dr. Felisa Verdejo, Dr. Galia Angelova, and Dr. Ido Dagan will continue as members of the Advisory Board. The next EACL conference will be held in Trento, Italy in April 2006.

ACL and the AFNLP (Asian Federation on Natural Language Processing) continue their cooperation and interaction. The next IJCNLP will be held in October, 2005 on the Jeju Island in Asia. Dr. K. S. Choi is the General Conference Chair, Dr. Robert Dale and Dr. Kam-fai Wong are the Program Co-Chairs, and Dr. Jong-Hyeok Lee is the Local Arrangements Chair.

A major initiative over the past several years, led by Steven Bird and sponsored by the CL community, has been the ACL Anthology (<http://www.aclweb.org/anthology>), a digital archive of research papers in computational linguistics that are freely available to all. It includes the journal *Computational Linguistics*, proceedings of the ACL, EACL, NAACL, ANLP, TINLAP, EMNLP, COLING, and HLT conferences, and all ACL-sponsored workshops. Users can browse the publications by series and year, or else do a full-text search. The anthology has been indexed by Google and Citeseer, and is in the process of being incorporated into the ACM Digital Library. The ACL website supports persistent URLs for all anthology papers, and these are resolved to a copy at the selected mirror site. These URLs have the form <http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P99-1012>, and they may be used for citation purposes. Researchers in computational linguistics are finding the Anthology to be an excellent resource, and we encourage everyone to make full use of it and to provide any suggestions for improvement.

ACL tries to maintain current surface and email addresses for its membership. Unfortunately, members often change addresses without notifying the office. If your surface or email address should change, please notify Priscilla Rasmussen at [acl@aclweb.org](mailto:acl@aclweb.org) or [rasmusse@cs.rutgers.edu](mailto:rasmusse@cs.rutgers.edu). And, please note that the address of our ACL offices is: ACL, 3 Landmark Center, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, USA.

We are seeking ways to better serve our membership and very much appreciate any comments or suggestions that you might have for doing this. Please use the following addresses that have previously been set up to allow simpler communications with the ACL officers:

<a href="mailto:acl@aclweb.org">acl@aclweb.org</a>	To the main ACL Office (Priscilla Rasmussen)
<a href="mailto:president@aclweb.org">president@aclweb.org</a>	To the ACL President (currently Martha Palmer)
<a href="mailto:vice-president@aclweb.org">vice-president@aclweb.org</a>	To the ACL Vice-President (currently Junichi Tsujii)
<a href="mailto:treasurer@aclweb.org">treasurer@aclweb.org</a>	To the ACL Treasurer (currently Kathleen McCoy)
<a href="mailto:secretary@aclweb.org">secretary@aclweb.org</a>	To the ACL Secretary (currently Sandra Carberry)
<a href="mailto:archivist@aclweb.org">archivist@aclweb.org</a>	To the ACL Archivist (currently Richard Sproat)

This newsletter would not be complete without recognition of Priscilla Rasmussen's efforts on behalf of ACL throughout the year. She efficiently handles many aspects of ACL business and works very hard on solving member problems. Thank you Priscilla!

We hope ACL continues to grow as a truly international organization with local chapters to help serve the special local needs of the membership and increased collaboration with the Asian Federation. Our 43rd annual meeting promises to be an exciting one. We look forward to seeing you in Michigan!

Sandra Carberry  
University of Delaware  
ACL Secretary