Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series
Thursday, May 5, 2011
1:30 - 2:20 p.m., Room E-216

Lucy Vanderwende, Ph.D.
Senior Researcher, Natural Language Processing
Microsoft Research, Redmond, Washington

"Recognition of Bio-molecular Events in Text: The BioNLP Shared Task"

The importance of language processing has been widely recognized in the biomedical and clinical domain. The opportunity to make contributions in this field is now increasingly recognized by natural language processing researchers as well. Jointly, these communities have created a number of resources, among which is annotated data representing change of state for bio-molecules, made available as the BioNLP shared task. In this talk, Dr. Vanderwende will discuss the data set, outline why this data is particularly challenging, and describe the system that her group at Microsoft Research built to perform the task of extracting bio-events from text. While the task is interesting from a language processing perspective, the goal ultimately is to provide useful tools. To that end, Lucy will present two user interfaces intended to initiate discussion of knowledge representation, among the language processing and the bioinformatics communities.

Dr. Vanderwende received her Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics from Georgetown University, in Washington D.C. She has worked at IBM in Natural Language Processing (1988 - 1990), and she was a Visiting Scientist at the Institute for Systems Science in Singapore (1991). Since 1992, she has been a manager and senior researcher in the Natural Language Processing group at Microsoft Research. Among the products Lucy has contributed to are the Microsoft Word grammar checker and the Encarta Natural Language User Interface. Early research work includes MindNet, a graphical semantic knowledge base through automatic text extraction, and various summarization algorithms. She is currently focusing on fine-grained Information Extraction from general text, and from biomedical text in particular.

* *

NOTE: Podcasts from MEBI 590 Lecture Series talks for this quarter are available at http://courses.washington.edu/mebi590/schedule.htm

Podcasts from previous quarters are available at
http://courses.washington.edu/mebi590/past.lecture.schedules.html