

Center for Cognitive Science

University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

280 Park Hall

North Campus

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Chrysanne DiMarco, Ph.D.

School of Computer Science

University of Waterloo, Canada

"Computational Models of Natural Language Pragmatics"

Current natural language processing (NLP) systems are, almost without exception, still able to deal only with restricted, simplified language. While researchers in natural language are beginning to produce systems with real-world utility, NLP systems are still challenged by basic problems associated with analyzing syntax and determining semantic content. A major component of language, the pragmatics of human communication, remains understudied and under-represented in current computational systems. But, in the real world, the pragmatics of natural language---complex nuances of language such as exact choices of words and syntactic structure---carry much of the meaning of a text or utterance. If NLP systems are to be truly effective in everyday use, they must be able to handle much more of these complexities of real-world language. In this talk, I will describe some of our earlier work on building computational systems that incorporate knowledge of lexical and syntactic style, with some additional looks forward to how pragmatics may play a role in the evolution of real-world NLP systems.

Refreshments will be available.

Open to the Public.