The First Diversity in Games Research (DiGR) Workshop

Part of the AIIDE 2014 Workshop Program

October 4, 2014

NC State University, Raleigh, NC

Over the past ten years, the area of computer games has expanded to be a significant area of computer science research, with a number of strong annual conferences, IEEE Transactions-level journals and a growing number of tenured faculty across the US. Students at the undergraduate level are drawn in large numbers to pursue computer science degrees with concentrations or focus on game creation methods and federal funders like the DOD and NSF are supporting exciting new computational developments relating to games. Nevertheless, the number of faculty from under-represented groups in this area is significantly low. We announce The First Diversity in Games Research Workshop to encourage undergraduate and graduate students from under-represented groups to engage in graduate training in games research and to better prepare them for entry into an academic research career in this field.

In general, the workshop will involve a mix of “big picture” talks about major research problems in the field (e.g., interactive narrative, game analytics, procedural content generation), poster sessions for student/post-doctoral attendees and panels/targeted talks on career development in the area of games (e.g., how games research fits in to a conventional computer science department, where funding for games research can be found, how to build collaborative relationships with design, media studies and other related disciplines). We also hope to arrange small group mentoring activities between participants and leaders in the field of games research.
as well as (potentially) focused mentoring activities at the larger AIIDE conference.

Target audience

The workshop will be designed to provide significant content for a range of attendees at a range of experience levels, including junior faculty, post-docs and recent doctoral awardees, graduate students and undergraduates with an interest in pursuing graduate degrees. The workshop will be of particular interest to women, members of other underrepresented groups (Hispanics, African American, and Native American), and students, post-docs and junior faculty who do not have access to mentoring networks at their home institutions.

Application to attend

Priority for attendance at the workshop will be given to individuals who apply and are accepted via the process described below. Depending on the number of workshop invitees, a limited number of seats may be made available on a first-come, first-served basis once invitee attendance is set. All applicants must follow the procedures listed here, providing the required documentation by the submission dates indicated.

- All applicants other than junior faculty must arrange for a letter of recommendation to be emailed directly to Michael Young at young at csc.ncsu.edu from a faculty member at their home institution. The letter should describe the research or research potential of the applicant, the applicant's interest in a research career and the potential benefit to the applicant of attendance at DiGR. The subject field for the email should start with the text "DIGR RECOMMENDATION."
- All applicants must submit a two-page description of their work and interests via the DiGR 2014 Easychair site. Content and process for this submission is described below.

Important Dates (note submission and notification dates updated!)

- Recommendation letter submission: July 20, 2014 (updated)
- Two-page summary submission: July 20, 2014 (updated)
- Notification of invitation decisions/travel award offers to applicants: July 25, 2014 (updated)
Acceptance of invitation by applicants: July 31, 2014
Notification of additional seating availability: August 1, 2014
AIIDE early registration deadline: August 15, 2014
Camera-ready deadline: August 20, 2014
Workshop held: October 4, 2014

Submission

Applications should submit a 2-page statement of interest and description of research, formatted according to AIIDE/AAAI proceedings guidelines (see the author instructions page). Submitted papers will be distributed to attendees for reference and discussion and used to group attendees according to interests in panels, discussions and other workshop activities. Submissions will not be collected into a published proceedings, are not peer reviewed and are not intended to be cited. Papers should contain technical content about the author's work sufficient to serve as an overview for his or her research program that can serve as a guide both to workshop organizers (to select relevant applicants for invitation) and to workshop attendees (to introduce one another's research efforts). Papers should be submitted in PDF format via the DiGR 2014 Easychair web submission site:

https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=digr2014

Organizing Committee

- Tiffany Barnes (co-chair, NC State University)
- Hector Munoz-Avila (co-chair, Lehigh University)
- R. Michael Young (co-chair, NC State University)