

Middlebury College  
**Computer Science Seminar**

**Evaluating Natural Language Generation  
Systems in Online Virtual Environments**

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**Union College**

Natural language generation (NLG) systems produce text in a human language starting from a non-linguistic representation of information (e.g., a logical representation or database tables). In this talk, I will first give a brief overview of NLG and then present the GIVE challenge (“Giving Instructions in Virtual Environments”) and its results. GIVE is a research challenge designed to provide a new approach to NLG system evaluation. In the GIVE scenario, users try to solve a treasure hunt in an online virtual 3D world. The challenge for the NLG system is to generate, in real time, natural-language instructions that guide the users to the successful completion of their task. (If you want to “prepare” for this talk, go to [www.give-challenge.org](http://www.give-challenge.org) and let an NLG system guide you through the virtual world!)

**Go to the blue button  
and press it.**



**Friday, March 13, 2009**  
**12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.**  
**McCardell Bicentennial Hall 438**  
**Lunch will be provided @ 12:15 PM**

*This event is sponsored by the Computer Science Department.*