

Subject: UTCS Colloquium/AI: Kevin Knight, University of Southern California, "The Voynich Manuscript", ACES 6.304, Monday, August 6, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

Date: July 13, 2007 11:25:29 AM CDT

To: CS-Announcements;;

There is a sign up schedule for this event:

http://www.cs.utexas.edu/departments/webevent/utcs/events/cgi/list_events.cgi

Type of Talk: UTCS Colloquium/AI

Speaker Name/Affiliation: Kevin Knight/USC

Date/Time: August 6, 2007 11:00 a.m.

Location (other): ACES 6.304

Host: Ray Mooney

Talk Title: "The Voynich Manuscript"

Talk Abstract:

The medieval Voynich Manuscript has been called the most mysterious document in the world. Its pages contain bizarre drawings of strange plants and astrological diagrams, as well as an undeciphered script of 20,000 running words, written in a character set that has never been seen elsewhere. Its origin is also controversial, with many theories abounding. I will describe the document, show samples, explain where it may have come from, and present some properties of the text and experiments with it. This will more of a history/mystery talk than a computer science talk.

Speaker Bio:

Kevin Knight is a Senior Research Scientist and Fellow at the USC/Information Sciences Institute. He is also a Research Associate Professor in the Computer Science Department at USC. He received his Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University in 1991 and his BA from Harvard University in 1986. He is co-author, with Elaine Rich, of the textbook "Artificial Intelligence". His main research interests are statistical natural language processing, machine translation, natural language generation, and decipherment.