What Can We Learn from a Reading Tutor that Listens?

Dr. Jack Mostow
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4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Harrington Tower 617

Abstract
Project LISTEN’s Reading Tutor listens to children read aloud, and helps them learn to read. Besides logging tutorial interactions in fine-grained, longitudinal detail, it carries out within-subject, randomized controlled experiments. The talk will describe various methods for generating and mining such data in order to evaluate the relative efficacy of different types of instruction and practice, and some of the lessons learned from doing so.

Biographical Note
Dr. Jack Mostow is a Research Professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Robotics, Machine Learning, Language Technologies, and Human-Computer Interaction, and serves on the Steering Committee for CMU's doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Educational Research (www.cmu.edu/pier). In 1992 he founded Project LISTEN (www.cs.cmu.edu/~listen) to develop an automated Reading Tutor that listens to children read aloud. Project LISTEN won the Outstanding Paper Award at the Twelfth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence in August 1994, a United States patent in 1998, inclusion in the National Science Foundation's "Nifty Fifty" research projects in 2000, and the Allen Newell Medal of Research Excellence in 2003. After earning his A.B. cum laude in Applied Mathematics at Harvard and his Ph.D. in Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon, Dr. Mostow held faculty positions at Stanford, University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute, and Rutgers. He has served as an Editor of Machine Learning Journal and of IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, as Program Co-chair of the 1998 National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, and as Conference Chair of the 2010 International Conference on Intelligent Tutoring System and the 2013 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education.