

Tom Wagner

“Robots, Explosives, Parachutes, Balloons, Dogs, and Why You Are the Key to Widespread Robotics”



Wednesday, April 9, 2014
12:00 – 1:30pm
Barus and Holley Room 190

Robotics is an active field filled with rich technology, innovation, investment, and excitement. There is great promise in the idea of a system (a robot) that exists in and acts upon the physical world. Inherent with being a disruptive this large potential is met with equally large challenges. In this talk I will hit every topic in the title, plus share a few thoughts on robot technology, the business of robots, why the business of robots matters, and why you are the key to robots making their way into widespread use.

Dr. Tom Wagner is currently the CEO of a stealth startup. Recently he had the privilege to serve as the Chief Technology Officer of iRobot. iRobot is a publically traded company and recognized world leader in robots for automated home maintenance and remote presence. iRobot also maintains a rich and active technology portfolio in key areas of robotics. Prior to becoming CTO, Wagner served as vice president and technical director. Prior to joining iRobot, Wagner was a program manager at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the research and development agency of the U.S. Department of Defense, where he managed programs in robotics, communications, command and control, tele-health and artificial intelligence. Earlier in his career, Wagner served as a professor at the University of Maine, as a principal lead at Honeywell and in leadership and advisory roles in small & startup companies. He holds a Ph.D. in computer science and artificial intelligence from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In addition to his core activities, Wagner serves as an advisor to small business and universities.

Host: Michael Littman

This presentation is part of the HCRI's Multidisciplinary Speaker Series that showcases diverse and groundbreaking research undertaken by leaders in science, technology, design, and impact of robotics on society.

*For more information on this talk and the HCRI Speaker Series,
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