

Preface

Welcome to the 1999 FLAIRS conference. This is the twelfth annual conference hosted by the Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society (FLAIRS).

The Florida AI Research Society conference, which started as an annual gathering of AI researchers within the state of Florida, has over the years grown into an international forum attracting attendees from all over the world. In recognition of this, the title of the conference was changed to include the word "International" this year. For 1999, we have had submissions from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom in addition to the United States.

This year's conference covers a wide range of topics including

- Applications,
- Computer Vision
- Databases and AI
- Evolutionary Computation
- Intelligent Agents
- Knowledge-Based Systems
- Learning, Logic and AI
- Logic Programming
- Natural Language Processing
- Planning.

In addition, the conference hosts ten special tracks on the following topics:

- Artificial Intelligence Applied to Spacecraft Autonomy
- Evolutionary Computation
- Intelligent Tutoring Systems
- Knowledge Management
- Neural Network Applications
- Parallel and Distributed Reasoning

- Reasoning About Function
- Spatiotemporal Reasoning
- Uncertain Reasoning
- Verification, Validation, and Knowledge Base Refinement.

We are delighted to present invited talks by Frank Anger, Bruce G. Buchanan, Kenneth M. Ford, Patrick J. Hayes, John Laird and David Stork.

This year, for the first time, authors were asked to submit full papers instead of short abstracts. Out of the 66 papers submitted to the general conference, 39 were accepted for presentation. An additional 59 papers were accepted by the 10 special tracks. Out of the total 98 papers, 13 are currently being considered for a special issue of the *International Journal of Pattern Recognition and Artificial Intelligence*. Again, for the first time this year, an award is being presented for the best paper in the conference.

Many people have worked for the success of this conference—we would like to acknowledge the contributions of the conference program committee, the FLAIRS officers, invited speakers, special track chairs, the authors, and the AAAI Press staff. The following people deserve special mention for their tireless efforts: Valerie Barr, the Special Tracks Co-ordinator, and Mike Hamilton and Daphne Black from the AAAI Press. We hope you will find the conference both exciting and stimulating. We wish you a pleasant stay in Orlando.

– Ingrid Russell and Amruth N. Kumar
1999 Program Cochairs