



Preface

Welcome to the Fourteenth International FLAIRS Conference and to wonderful Key West!

FLAIRS is held in cooperation with the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). The conference continues its tradition of attracting a large number of international authors and participants. The program clearly reflects this diversity with authors from all over the world. This year we received a record number of submissions to the general session and to the special tracks, and have a record number of special track sessions to be presented. In the general session, we accepted approximately fifty percent of the submitted papers. As a result, we have an outstanding program with several excellent papers that span many areas in AI.

A best paper award will be presented at the conference and a number of papers will be selected for consideration for a special issue of the *Journal of Pattern Recognition and Artificial Intelligence*.

The topics covered this year in the general session include optimization, genetic algorithms, natural language processing, robotics, knowledge representation, AI and e-commerce, intelligent agents, human-computer interaction, intelligent user interface, decision analysis and models, knowledge based systems, data mining and the web, and intelligent tutoring systems. The program features eleven special tracks on knowledge management, knowledge discovery and data mining, uncertainty, verification/validation and system certification, AI education, case-based reasoning, AI in aerospace, spatiotemporal reasoning, neural networks and fuzzy logic, niche autonomous robots, and machine learning. The program also includes two panel sessions.

In addition, we are pleased to have the following invited presentations by five distinguished speakers:

- Towards a Computational Model of Sketching
Kenneth Forbus, Northwestern University

- Didn't Samuel Solve that Game?
Jonathan Schaeffer, University of Alberta
- Ten Years Before the Mast
Ken Ford and Pat Hayes, University of West Florida
- Morphological Neural Networks
Gerhard X. Ritter, University of Florida

The program and these proceedings are the product of the collaboration and hard work of several committed people. We were fortunate to work with a great group of committee members whose prompt and thorough review of the papers contributed significantly to the quality of these proceedings. Many thanks to the authors without whose contribution these proceedings would not have existed. We are grateful to the hard work of the special track chairs for organizing several quality special track sessions.

We would like to acknowledge FLAIRS-2001 general chair, Doug Dankel, for his efforts in the overall organization of the conference. Mike Hamilton and Carol Hamilton at AAAI Press have provided us with invaluable assistance with the production of these proceedings and with keeping us advised of the various deadlines. Jean Gerber's thorough and efficient work on registration issues and details has provided for a smooth process and we are fortunate to have Jean handle conference administration and registration.

We hope you find reading the proceedings enjoyable!

– *John Kolen and Ingrid Russell*
FLAIRS-2001 Program Chairs