Call for Applications

Fifteenth AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium
July 11–12, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia USA

Sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence and ACM SIGART
Collocated with AAAI-10

AAAI and ACM/SIGART invite students to apply for the Fifteenth AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium. The Doctoral Consortium (DC) provides an opportunity for a group of Ph.D. students to discuss and explore their research interests and career objectives with a panel of established researchers in artificial intelligence. The consortium has the following objectives: (1) to provide a setting for mutual feedback on participants' current research and guidance on future research directions; (2) develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research; (3) support a new generation of researchers with information and advice on academic, research, industrial, and non-traditional career paths; and (4) contribute to the conference goals through interaction with other researchers and participation in conference events.

The Doctoral Consortium will be held as a workshop on July 11-12, 2010, immediately before the start of the main AAAI conference. Student participants in the Doctoral Consortium will receive complimentary conference registration and a fixed allowance for travel/housing.

The Application Packet

Applicants to the Doctoral Consortium must submit the following materials via the AAAI online submission site. Please combine all materials into one PDF document, formatted for US letter paper (8.5 x 11").

1. *Thesis Summary.* A two-page thesis summary that outlines the problem being addressed, the proposed plan for research, and a description of the progress to date. The most successful applications directly address all three of these components. Please be sure to distinguish between work that has already been accomplished and work that remains to be done. Be sure to include a title for your work. The thesis summary MUST be in AAAI two-column format, with references.

2. *Curriculum Vita.* Include a CV (at most two pages) that describes your background and relevant experience (research, education, employment). Your CV MUST include your anticipated graduation date, or it may be rejected without review. Please include any additional items that may indicate your potential contribution to, and benefit from, the DC.

3. *Letter of Recommendation.* A letter of recommendation from your thesis advisor. It must include an assessment of the current status of your thesis research, and an expected date for thesis submission. In addition, your advisor should indicate what he or she hopes you would gain from participation in the DC.

4. *Participant's Expectations.* A short (one page or less) statement of what you expect to gain from presenting and participating in the DC, as well as what you think you can contribute to the DC. For best consideration, your statement must address both of these expectations.

Please submit your application materials via the online Doctoral Consortium submission site via www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai10.php. Full instructions regarding your submission will be available at this site in December 2009.

Review Process

The consortium organizing committee will select participants on the basis of their anticipated contribution to the workshop goals. We solicit applications from any topic area and methodology within artificial intelligence. Students will be selected who have settled on their thesis direction, but still have significant research to complete. The perfect stage is having just had a research proposal ac-

cepted by the thesis committee. Students will be selected based on clarity and completeness of the submission packet, stage of research, advisor's letter, and evidence of promise such as published papers or technical reports.

At the Conference

The organizers invite all students to attend and participate in the Doctoral Consortium, whether or not they apply to present their work. In previous years, many nonpresenting students said they found it useful to observe their peers' presentations and to participate in the ensuing discussions.

All participants selected to present their work at the Doctoral Consortium are expected to be present throughout the consortium. Our experience has been that participants gain almost as much by interacting with their peers as by having their presentations critiqued by the faculty panel. As such, we expect a commitment from participating students to attend the entire DC.

Acknowledgements

Inquiries

Additional information may be obtained by writing to dc10@aaai.org or by contacting the chair of the organizing committee: Chris Brooks, Harney Science Center, Room 54, University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117-1080 USA, (415) 422-5221. E-mail: cbrooks@cs.usfca.edu

---

Important Dates for Application Submission

February 5, 2010: Application Package Submission Deadline
March 19, 2010: Acceptance Notification
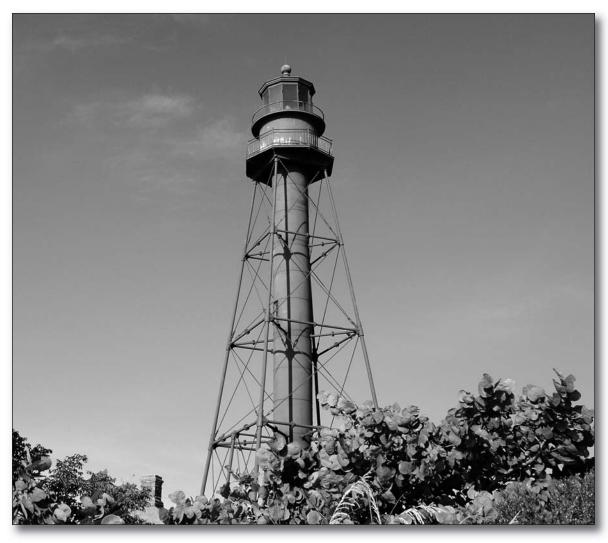*July 11-12, 2010:* Doctoral Consortium

Report on the Twenty-Second International FLAIRS Conference

*Hans W. Guesgen
and H. Chad Lane*

■ *The Twenty-Second International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference (FLAIRS-22) was held 19–21 May 2009 at the Sundial Beach and Golf Resort on Sanibel Island, Florida, USA. It continued a long tradition of FLAIRS conferences, which attract researchers from around the world. The conference featured technical papers, special tracks, and invited speakers. This year's conference was chaired by Susan Haller, from the State University of New York at Potsdam. Conference program cochairs were Hans W. Guesgen, from Massey University in New Zealand, and H. Chad Lane, from the University of Southern California. The special tracks were coordinated by Philip McCarthy, from the University of Memphis.*

*C*ontinuing a long tradition, the Twenty-Second International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference took place 19–21 May 2009 at the Sundial Beach and Golf Resort on Sanibel Island, Florida, USA. Contributions to the conference, in the form of papers and posters, came from 32 countries. Most of them originated in the USA, but there was also a strong presence of papers and posters from Germany, Canada, France, Japan, and Poland. The call for papers attracted 158 paper submissions, 40 to the general conference and 118 to the 10 special tracks. The international program committees of FLAIRS-22 and its tracks finally accepted 85 papers (21 from the general conference and 64 from the special tracks) that appeared in the proceedings published by AAAI Press. On top of that, they accepted 29 submissions as poster papers (6 from the general conference and 23 from the special tracks), which were presented during a special poster session on the first day of the conference. The best paper award went to William Eberle and Lawrence Holder for "Discovering Anomalies to Multiple Normative Patterns in Structural and Numeric Data," the best student paper to Zsolt Kira for "Mapping Grounded Object Properties across Perceptually Heterogeneous Embodiments," and the best poster award to René Alejandro Venegas for "Towards a Method for Assessing Summaries in Spanish Using LSA."

In addition to the diverse assortment of papers submitted to the conference, FLAIRS featured an excellent set of keynote

The Historic Sanibel Island Florida Lighthouse.

speakers: Eugene Freuder of the University College Cork, presented a talk on "The Ubiquity of Constraints," Arthur Graesser of the University of Memphis spoke on "AutoTutor and the World of Pedagogical Agents: Intelligent Tutoring Systems with Natural Language Dialogue," and Jan Wiebe of the University of Pittsburgh presented a talk called "Subjectivity Analysis." Several of the special tracks also featured invited talks from distinguished researchers in the track areas: James Pustejovsky of Brandeis University, with a talk on "Linguistic Ontologies for Time and Space," Vincent Aleven of Carnegie Mellon University, with a talk on "CTAT: Efficiently Building Real-world Intelligent Tutoring Systems through Programming by Demonstration," and Ashok K. Goel of the Georgia Institute of Technology, with a talk on "Multimodal Case-Based Reasoning."

Overall the program shows that FLAIRS continues to be a major forum for the presentation of research results in artificial intelligence, primarily for U.S.-based researchers but also for researchers abroad. The Twenty-Third International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-23) will be held 19–21 May 2010 in Daytona Beach, Florida, USA. Information about FLAIRS-23, including the call for papers, is available online at www.flairs-23.info.

Hans W. Guesgen is a professor of computer science at the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology of Massey University in New Zealand. His research areas include ambient intelligence, smart environments, and spatiotemporal reasoning. He holds doctorates from the University of Kaiserslautern (1988) and the University of Hamburg (1993) in Germany.

H. Chad Lane is a research scientist at the University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies. He conducts research in the areas of intelligent tutoring systems, cognitive science, serious games, and the learning sciences with a particular focus on the use of virtual humans for learning in ill-defined domains. He received his Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Pittsburgh in 2004.