

Report on the Nineteenth International FLAIRS Conference

Geoff Sutcliffe

■ The Nineteenth International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-19) was held 11–13 May 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront Hotel in Melbourne Beach, FL. The general cochairers were Philip Chan and Debasis Mitra, from the Florida Institute of Technology. The program cochairers were Geoff Sutcliffe, from the University of Miami, and Randy Goebel, from the University of Alberta. The special tracks chair was Barry O'Sullivan, from University College Cork. The conference was attended by almost 200 AI researchers from around the world.

The Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society (FLAIRS) was founded in 1987 to promote and advance AI research within the state of Florida, fostering interaction between researchers at colleges, universities, and industry. Since 1990, FLAIRS conferences have been broadened to include participants and papers from across North America and the world.

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The call for papers attracted 258 paper submissions, 56 to the general conference and 202 to the 16 special tracks. The program committees accepted the 148 papers that appear in the proceedings, 130 as presented papers (24 from the general conference and 106 from the special tracks) and 18 as poster papers (6 from the general conference and 12 from the special tracks). The general conference program included four invited talks, by Alan Bundy of the University of Edinburgh, "On Repairing Reasoning Reversals via Representational Refinements"; Bob Morris of the NASA Ames

Research Center, "AI for Autonomy in Space Exploration: Current Capabilities and Future Challenges"; Mehran Sahami of Stanford University and Google, "Mining the Web to Determine Similarity between Words, Objects, and Communities"; and Barry Smyth of the University College Dublin, "Personalizing Web Search: Communities and Collaboration." The general conference sessions featured papers ranging from foundational issues in reasoning and knowledge representation, through papers describing architectures for a range of AI systems, to papers reporting on industrial applications of AI technology. The 16 special track sessions provided researchers in focused areas the opportunity to meet and present their work, and offered a forum for interaction among the broader community of artificial intelligence researchers. Special track topics included Artificial Intelligence Education, Artificial Intelligence in Music and Art, Case-Based Reasoning, Intelligent Tutoring Systems, Machine Learning, Natural Language and Knowledge Representation, Automatic Annotation by Categories for Text Information Extraction, and Uncertain Reasoning.

FLAIRS continues to be a major forum for the presentation of research results in artificial intelligence. It is a significant alternative venue for researchers who choose to present their results in the United States. The 20th International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-20) will be held 7–9 May 2007 at the Casa Marina Resort and Beach Club in Key West, Florida, USA.

Information about FLAIRS-20, including the call for papers, is available online at www.cise.ufl.edu/~ddd/FLAIRS/flairs2007/.



Geoff Sutcliffe is an associate professor and director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Miami. His research is in the area of automated reasoning, particularly in the evaluation and effective use of automated reasoning systems. He is currently the vice-president of FLAIRS.



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The 20th International FLAIRS Conference

Casa Marina Resort and Beach Club
 Key West, Florida
 May 7-9, 2007

The 20th International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-20) will be held May 7 - 9, 2007 at the Casa Marina Resort, which is directly on the beach in Key West, Florida, USA. FLAIRS-20 will feature technical papers, special tracks, and invited speakers on artificial intelligence. The conference is hosted by the Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society, in cooperation with AAAI.

Topics of interest are in all areas of artificial intelligence, including: *Foundations*: Knowledge representation, Cognitive modeling, Perception, Reasoning & programming, Search, Learning; *Architectures*: Agents and distributed AI, Intelligent user interfaces, Natural language systems, Information retrieval, Robotics; *Applications*: Aviation and aerospace, Education, Entertainment, Medicine, Management and manufacturing, World Wide Web; *Implications*: Philosophical underpinnings, Social impact and ethics, Evaluation of AI systems, Teaching AI.

In addition to the general conference, FLAIRS offers numerous special conference tracks. Special tracks provide researchers in focused areas the opportunity to meet and present their work. Please consult the conference web site for details.

Invited Speakers

Tim Finin • Rita Rodriguez • Sebastian Thrun

<http://www.cise.ufl.edu/~ddd/FLAIRS/flairs2007/>

In cooperation with the American Association for Artificial Intelligence



FLAIRS-19 Invited Speakers.

Clockwise from top left: Alan Bundy, Barry Smyth, Mehran Sahami, and Bob Morris. (Center: Attendees enjoying lunch at FLAIRS-19).