

# Report on the 29th International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference (FLAIRS-29)

*Zdravko Markov, Ingrid Russell, Bill Eberle*

■ *The 29th International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference (FLAIRS-29) was held May 16–18, 2016, at the Hilton Key Largo Resort in Key Largo, Florida, USA. The conference events included invited speakers, special tracks, and presentations of papers, posters, and awards. The conference chair was Bill Eberle from Tennessee Technological University. The program co-chairs were Zdravko Markov from Central Connecticut State University and Ingrid Russell from the University of Hartford. The special tracks were coordinated by Vasile Rus from University of Memphis.*

The Florida Artificial Intelligence Society (FLAIRS) was founded in 1987 to promote and advance artificial intelligence research in the state of Florida and to foster the exchange of ideas and collaboration among the state's researchers from universities and industry through an annual conference. Shortly thereafter the FLAIRS conference, a general AI conference, grew to become a major venue for AI researchers from around the world to present their work. The conference continues its in-cooperation status with the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence.

Continuing a long tradition of presenting and discussing state-of-the-art artificial intelligence research in a sociable atmosphere within a beautiful setting, the 29th International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference (FLAIRS-29) took place May 16–18, 2016, in Key Largo, Florida, USA. It attracted 177 participants from 20 countries, with about one-third coming from outside the United States. The program included a general session with many excellent papers spanning a broad range of AI research areas and comprising traditional topics such as search, reasoning, and planning. Sixteen special tracks with several outstanding papers supplemented the program, bringing breadth to the general session. An integral part of the conference, the special tracks are intended to provide researchers working in similar areas to meet and present work in those areas. These focused sessions



best student paper went to Huy Nguyen and Diane Litman for “Improving Argument Mining in Student Essays by Learning and Exploiting Argument Indicators Versus Essay Topics.” The best poster award was presented to Roman Barták, Michal Koutny, and David Obdrzalek for “Practical 3D Tracking Using Low-cost Cameras.”

The conference featured a stimulating set of invited talks by three distinguished speakers. Kristin Tolle of Microsoft Research spoke on “Collaborative Research Analytics: Computer Science and Data Science Projects Designed to Meet Global Challenges.” Matthew Johnson of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition presented a talk entitled “No AI Is an Island.” Sumi Helal of the University of Florida talked about “Pervasive Intelligence — Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice in Smart Spaces.” In addition, the special track invited speakers were Diana Inkpen of the University of Ottawa, who presented a talk on “Natural Language Processing for Social Media,” Christophe Gonzales of the University Paris 6, who spoke on “Learning Uncertainty Models for Nonstationary Processes,” and Xingquan Zhu of the Florida Atlantic University, who presented “Mining Complex Structure and Rich-Content Data.”

The next FLAIRS conference (FLAIRS-30) will be held May 22–24, 2017 in Marco Island, Florida, USA. Information about FLAIRS-30, including the call for papers, is available online at [www.flairs-30.info](http://www.flairs-30.info).

**Zdravko Markov** is a professor of computer science at Central Connecticut State University. His research areas are machine learning, data and web mining, and AI education. His email address is [markovz@ccsu.edu](mailto:markovz@ccsu.edu).

**Ingrid Russell** is a professor of computer science at the University of Hartford. Her research interests are in the areas of machine learning, data and web mining, pattern recognition, and computer science education. Her email address is [irussell@hartford.edu](mailto:irussell@hartford.edu).

**Bill Eberle** is an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science at Tennessee Technological University. His research areas of interest include data mining, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. His email address is [weberle@tntech.edu](mailto:weberle@tntech.edu).

also offer forums for interactions among a broader community of AI researchers. The special tracks program included sessions and papers on AI and CyberSecurity, AI in Games, AI in Health-Care Informatics, Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Business and Industry, Applied Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence for Big Data, Autonomous Robots and Agents, Case-Based Reasoning, Data Mining, Intelligent Learning Technologies, Natural Language Processing of Ancient Languages, Social Media Analytics, Uncertain Reasoning, Recom-

mender Systems, and Semantic / Logics / Information Extraction and AI.

The call for papers attracted the submission of 195 papers, 44 to the general conference and 151 to the special tracks, and 36 poster abstracts. The accepted submissions included 102 full papers, 25 from the general conference and 77 from the special tracks, 20 short papers presented as posters, and 24 poster abstracts that appeared in the proceedings. The best paper award went to Shameer Iqbal and Daniel Silver for “A Scalable Unsupervised Deep Multimodal Learning System.” The