

# Preface

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The The Midwest Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science Conference (MAICS) is a general forum for research in both of the above mentioned fields and provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary cooperation and discussion between these two fields. Like the previous seven annual meetings, our Eighth MAICS has encouraged submissions and participation from those new to the research community.

The papers presented this year can be roughly categorized into the following eight subfields in AI and cognitive science: knowledge representation, intelligent tutoring systems, uncertainty, knowledge and data mining, virtual environments and intelligent actors, vision, language and interface, and self-organizing maps.

MAICS '97 also featured invited talks from Steven K. Rogers (Battelle) on "Physiologically Motivated Information Processing," Valerie J. Shute (Armstrong Laboratory, USAF) on "Automating Cognitive Task Analysis and Diagnosis: Explicate & Evaluate," and a panel discussion on "AI meets the Real World" led by Mark Boddy (Honeywell).

A special workshop on "Artificial Intelligence in Distributed Virtual Environments for Modeling and Simulation" was held prior to the main conference featuring discussions and tutorials from Martin R. Stytz (AFIT) and Sheila B. Banks (AFIT).

We are grateful to the authors who submitted to MAICS - 97. Although you gave us a difficult time in choosing between excellent papers, MAICS-97 could not have occurred with out you!

We wish you all an enjoyable and productive conference!

Eugene Santos Jr.  
*Conference Chair*