

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented at the ECCAI General Assembly on 1 August 2003 at
ACAI 2003, Bremen, Germany.

Founded in 1982, ECCAI currently represents 27 European societies for Artificial Intelligence and is now 21 years old! ECCAI is in very good shape to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

The following is a summary of ECCAI's activities over the past year.

TRAVEL GRANTS

This year 1 award of 400 Euros was awarded to a student attending the ACAI 03 Summer school. 5 Travel grants of 600 Euros each were awarded for students taking part in IJCAI-03 in Mexico. Thanks to Ulises Cortes for organising this.

DISSERTATION AWARD

The winner of the ECCAI Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award 2002 is Jorg Hoffmann, University of Freiburg for "Utilizing Problem Structure in Planning: A Local Search Approach". Thanks to Uli Furbach for coordinating this big task. There was a total of 9 nominations. The Award will be presented at KI-03, the Germany AI society annual conference, September 03.

ECCAI FELLOWS

9 new fellows were selected by the ECCAI Fellow Selection Panel for 2003:

Name	Country	Society	Institute
Prof Nick Jennings	UK	SGAI	University of Southampton
Prof Jaap van den Herik	Netherlands	BNVKI	University of Maastricht
Prof Walter Daelemans	Belgium	BNVKI	University of Antwerp
Prof Uli Furbach	Germany	KI	University of Koblenz
Prof Rudolf Kruse	Germany	KI	University of Magdeburg
Dr Barry Smyth	Ireland	AIAI	University College Dublin
Dr Toby Walsh	Ireland	AIAI	University College Cork
Prof Cristiano Castelfranchi	Italy	AI*IA	University of Siena
Prof Bernard Meltzer	UK	Retired	University of Edinburgh

Bernard Meltzer was one of the founders of the field of AI while at the University of Edinburgh. The selection panel felt that this recognition was long over due.

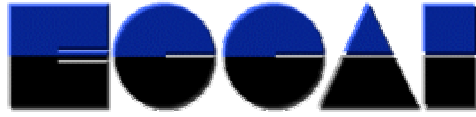
They have all made outstanding contributions over many years to the European AI community and we congratulate them. Special thanks to the Selection Panel of Wolfgang Bibel, Boi Faltings, Werner Horn, Ramon Lopez de Mantaras, Rob Milne and Bernd Nuemann. The ECCAI Fellows breakfast will take place on the Wednesday morning 13 August at IJCAI-03 in Acapulco.

ACAI 2003

We are pleased to be here as part of ACAI 03. The board thanks Andreas Birk for his outstanding work in making this event a success.

ECCAI BULLETIN

In order to improve communication with the ECCAI membership, the ECCAI board has continued a monthly Bulletin to go to each society. This provides topical information and reminders of up incoming ECCAI activities; as well as the contents of the recent issues of ETAI and AI Coms. Marc Ayel has taken the editorialship of this and Uli Furbach has established a special email list. This has proven very successful in communicating with the member societies and their members. Additional individual emails can be added to the mail server to increase its direct communication.



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ETAI

Our electronic journal, ETAI, has been thriving under the leadership of Erik Sandewall and is one of the pioneers in the area of electronic journals and rapid publishing. Erik has now taken over as co-editor of the AI Journal, which has resulted in changes at ETAI. A new structure is being put in place with Wolfgang Whalster taking the role of Scientific Editor-in-Chief while Erik Sandewall continues as General Editor.

COOPERATION WITH IOS PRESS

We continue to cooperate with IOS press on the publication of AI Coms. The members of the ECCAI member societies have access to the on-line version through a web site. The electronic version has been fully available this year. But usage of it has been very low. As a result, the ECCAI board is re considering the electronic provision of AI Communications.

We are continuing to cooperate with them to launch an IOS Press Book Series '*Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence Applications*'.

CLOSER LINKS WITH INDUSTRY

The ECCAI Board continues to discuss ways of involving industry more in the activities of ECCAI. Although progress is slow, we are looking at ways to provide valuable services to our member organisations and their members in exchange for appropriate sponsorship. Kris van Marcke has been leading these efforts and Uli Furbach has been exploring possible European Community financial support. Funding opportunities are being explored now that the 6th Framework has started.

CLOSER LINKS WITH PUBLISHERS

The ECCAI Board has had discussions with Elsevier and the IEEE regarding ways to provide their publications to the ECCAI member societies. An agreement has been reached with the IEEE to be a technical co-sponsor of the publication IEEE Intelligent Systems. Members of ECCAI member societies also will get a discount on this publication. The arrangement started in January 2003.

The ECCAI board is again opening discussion regarding the electronic provision of the Artificial Intelligence Journal.

ECCAI WEB SITE

During the past year, the ECCAI web site has been redesigned and is now hosted by Werner Horn's institute. This change is in preparation of further enhancements.

WORLD AI SOCIETY COORDINATION

There will be a meeting of national society chairs at IJCAI-03 in Mexico, hosted by IJCAI, Inc. ECCAI will represent any of its member societies which cannot attend. The meeting is expected to be an opportunity to share experiences and discuss common problems.

IJCAI-03 STAND

ECCAI has a stand at IJCAI-03 to promote ECCAI and its member societies. This is a great chance for the member societies to promote their activities and events to AI community. Societies are encouraged to take advantage of this.

Rob Milne
ECCAI President