

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented at the ECCAI General Assembly on 25 August 2004 at
ECAI 2004, Valencia, Spain

Founded in 1982, ECCAI currently represents 27 European Societies for Artificial Intelligence and is now 22 years old! ECCAI is in very good shape to meet the challenges of the new opportunities that the field of Artificial Intelligence has.

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

TRAVEL GRANTS

This year 20 awards of 400 Euros was awarded to students attending ECAI-04. Thanks to Ulises Cortes for organising this.

DISSERTATION AWARD

The winner of the ECCAI Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award 2003 goes to Javier Vazquez-Salceda for his dissertation entitled: *The role of Norms and Electronic Institutions in Multi-Agent Systems applied to complex domains. The HARMONIA framework.* He is from the Technical University of Catalonia, Spain.

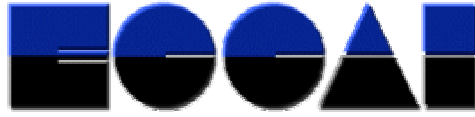
Thanks to Uli Furbach for coordinating this big task. There was a total of 7 nominations. The Award will be presented on Friday at ECAI-04 in a special session.

ECCAI FELLOWS

Twelve new fellows were selected by the ECCAI Fellow Selection Panel for 2004:

Name	Country	Society	Institute
Giovanni Adorni	Italy	AI*IA	University of Genoa
Franz Baader	Germany	GI/KI	Technical University Dresden
Susanne Biundo	Germany	GI/KI	University of Ulm
Maurice Bruynooghe	Belgium	BNVKI	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Padraig Cunningham	Ireland	AIAI	Trinity College Dublin
Mark Keane	Ireland	AIAI	University College Dublin
Enric Plaza	Spain	ACIA	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC)
Gerard Sabah	France	AFIA	LIMSI-CNRS
Nigel Shadbolt	UK	AISB	University of Southampton
Derek Sleeman	UK	BCS-SGAI	University of Aberdeen
Peter Struss	Germany	GI/KI	Technische Universität München
Tibor Vamos	Hungary	NJSZT	Hungarian Academy of Sciences

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 Alan Bundy, Boi Faltings, Werner Horn, Fausto Giunchiglia, Rob Milne and Bernd Nuemann. The ECCAI Fellows lunch will take place on Thursday lunchtime 26 August at ECAI-04.



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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 editorship 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.

ETA I

Our electronic journal, ETAI, has been thriving under the leadership of Erik Sandewall and Wolfgang Whalster and is one of the pioneers in the area of electronic journals and rapid publishing. A new structure was put in place with Wolfgang Whalster taking the role of Scientific Editor-in-Chief while Erik Sandewall continues as General Editor. Discussions are now taking place with regard to cooperation between ETAI and AI Communications.

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 reconsidering the electronic provision of AI Communications. Toby Walsh will now take over as Editor of AI Communications. We thank and congratulate Georg Gottlob for his outstanding work as Editor.

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

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 will also get a discount on this publication.

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 has been very successful and in preparation of further enhancements.

ECAI-04 STAND

ECCAI has a stand at ECAI-04 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