



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented at the ECCAI General Assembly on 2 August 2005 at
IJCAI-05, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Founded in 1982, ECCAI currently represents 26 European societies for Artificial Intelligence and is now 23 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

The ECCAI travel awards program support the participation of young researchers at ECAI and ACAI. This year 12 submissions have been received, 2 were inappropriate, 10 awards of 400 Euros were given to students attending ACAI-05. Membership: AISB (1), LIKS-AIS (1), APPIA (2), AFIA (2), GI/KI (1), AI*IA (3). Thanks to Uli Furbach for organising this.

DISSERTATION AWARD

The ECCAI Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award 2004 goes to [Zeynep Kiziltan](#), Department of Information Science, Uppsala University, Sweden for her thesis: "Symmetry Breaking Ordering Constraints" (supervisor: Toby Walsh). The Award Ceremony took place during the opening ceremony of IJCAI-05. The paper will be presented on Wednesday morning at an IJCAI-05 special session. Thanks to Ulises Cortes for coordinating this big task. There was a total of 6 nominations.

ECCAI FELLOWS

Nine new fellows were selected by the ECCAI Fellow Selection Committee for 2005:

Name	Country	Society	Institute
Luc De Raedt	Belgium	BNVKI	Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg
Luis Fariñas del Cerro	France	AFIA	IRIT
Christian Freksa	Germany	GI/KI	Universität Bremen
Martin Golumbic	Israel	IAAI	University of Haifa
Alberto Martelli	Italy	AI*IA	Università degli Studi di Torino
John-Jules Meyer	The Netherlands	BNVKI	University of Utrecht
Marie-Christine Rousset	France	AFIA	Université Paris Sud
Carles Sierra	Spain	ACIA	Spanish Scientific Research Council (CSIC)
Paolo Traverso	Italy	AI*IA	ITC/IRST

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, Henri Prade and Bernhard Nebel. The ECCAI Fellows lunch took place on Monday lunchtime 1 August at IJCAI-05.

ECCAI BULLETIN

In order to improve communication with the ECCAI membership, the ECCAI board has continued a Bulletin to go to each society. The Bulletin appears 6 times a year. This provides topical information and reminders of up incoming ECCAI activities; as well as the contents of the recent issues of ECAI and AI Coms. Marie-Odile Cordier has taken over the editorship from Marc Ayel. Many thanks to Marc who has established this Bulletin. He has run it successfully from 2001 to 2004. The bulletin appears on the ECCAI website and it is distributed via the ECCAI mailing list. The mailing list is maintained by Uli Furbach. This has proven very successful in communicating with the member societies and there members.

ECAI-04

The final report of ECAI-04 verified the massive success of the Valencia conference. With 726 attendants ECAI-04 achieved the highest number over the past decade of ECAs. It demonstrated the increasing interest in AI in Europe. Very many thanks to the relaxing atmosphere of this ECAI at UPV created by Vicent Botti and his team. Together with Ramon Lopez de Mantaras they have organized this conference in a perfect way. Many thanks also to Lorenza Saitta for governing the scientific program.

ACAI-05

The Advanced Course on Artificial Intelligence was devoted to the topic "Advanced Knowledge Technologies". 82 young researchers participated in ACAI-05 from 27 June to 5 July 2005 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The strong attendance and the perfect organization made this event a real success. Congratulations to the organizers, Nada Lavrac, Mitja Jermol, and the team.

COOPERATION WITH IOS PRESS

We continue to cooperate with IOS press on the publication of ECAI proceedings and of AI Coms. A new contract has been signed for publication of the ECAI Proceedings. This contract covers 3 ECAs from 2006 to 2010. It provides a better price scheme for publication of the proceedings in softcover and on CD, based on the current (higher) volumes required by ECAI.

AI Communications is now edited by Toby Walsh in cooperation with his Associate Editor, Enrico Giunchiglia. Enrico will take over the editorship from Toby after 2 years. The members of the ECCAI member societies have access to the on-line version through the web site of Metapress. The electronic version has been fully available this year, but usage needs improvement.

CLOSER LINKS WITH PUBLISHERS

ECCAI continues its agreement with the IEEE to be a technical co-sponsor of the publication "IEEE Intelligent Systems". Members of ECCAI member societies get a discount on this publication. Uli Furbach and Silvia Coradeschi serve on the editorial board of IEEE Intelligent Systems.

ECCAI WEB SITE

During the past year, the ECCAI web site (www.eccai.org) has continued to serve as the major information source about the activities of ECCAI. It is hosted by Werner Horn's institute.

IJCAI-05 STAND

ECCAI has a complimentary stand at IJCAI-05 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.

Werner Horn
ECCAI President