



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Presented at the ECCAI General Assembly on 30 August 2006 at
ECAI-2006, Riva del Garda, Italy.

Founded in 1982, ECCAI currently represents 26 European societies for Artificial Intelligence and is now 24 years old! ECCAI is in very good shape to meet the challenges of the new opportunities that the field of Artificial Intelligence has. The past years have shown an increasing interest of the community in the activities of ECCAI.

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 32 submissions have been received, 25 awards of 400 Euros were given to students attending ECAI-2006. Membership: AI*IA (6), SAIS (2), IAAI (2), AFIA (4), BNVKI (3), AEPIA (1), AIAI (2), AISB (3), ACIA (1), SLAIS (1). Further 2 awards were given to support the participation of Central & Eastern European researchers in ECAI-2006. Thanks to Uli Furbach for organising this.

DISSERTATION AWARD

The ECCAI Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award 2005 goes to Aleks Jakulin, Faculty of Computer and Information Science, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, for his thesis "Machine Learning Based on Attribute Interactions" (supervisor: Ivan Bratko).. The Award Ceremony took place during the opening ceremony of ECAI-2006. The paper is presented on Thursday 31 August afternoon at an ECAI-2006 special session.

Thanks to Ulises Cortes for coordinating this big task. There were a total of 5 nominations.

ECCAI FELLOWS

Eleven new fellows were selected by the ECCAI Fellow Selection Committee for 2006:

Name	Country	Society	Institute
Grigorios Antoniou	Greece	EETN	FORTH
Christian Bessiere	France	AFIA	LIRMM, CNRS
Patrick Doherty	Sweden	SAIS	Linköping University
Tom Eiter	Austria	ÖGAI	Technical University of Vienna
Floriana Esposito	Italy	AI*IA	University of Bari
Malik Ghallab	France	AFIA	LAAS-CNRS
Lluís Godo	Spain	ACIA	Spanish Scientific Research Council (CSIC)
Marco Gori	Italy	AI*IA	University of Siena
András Lörincz	Hungary	NJSZT	Eötvös Loránd University
Sebastian Thrun	Germany	GI/KI	Stanford University
Gerhard Widmer	Austria	ÖGAI	Johannes Kepler University

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 Marie-Odile Cordier, Fausto Giunchiglia, Werner Horn, Bernhard Nebel, Luis Moniz Pereira, Henri Prade and Austin Tate. The ECCAI Fellows lunch took place on Wednesday lunchtime 30 August at ECAI-2006.

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 AI Com and IEEE Intelligent Systems. Many thanks to Marie-Odile Cordier. She is managing the bulletin now for the

second year. 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 their members.

ECAI-2006

The preliminary report of ECAI-2006 demonstrates the increasing size of the AI community and its interest in the ECAI conference. By end of July already 740 registrations were counted, which is higher than the final numbers of ECAI-2004. The paper submission rate was comparable to Valencia (501 full papers and 49 poster submissions). Many thanks to the excellent organizing team headed by Paolo Traverso and Anna Perini from ITC-IRST. Many thanks also to Gerd Brewka for governing the scientific program and Silvia Coradeschi for chairing the conference.

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 in 2005 for publication of the ECAI Proceedings. This contract covers 3 ECAIs 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. IOS further publishes the proceedings of the STAIRS sub-conference in its "Frontiers of AI" series.

AI Communications is now edited by Toby Walsh in cooperation with his Associate Editor, Enrico Giunchiglia. Enrico will take over the editorship from Toby next year. 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 still needs improvement.

IOS has further published the Rob Milne memorial book. This book was edited by Alan Bundy and Sean Wilson. It is a tribute to the former ECCAI president Rob Milne, who died much too early on Mount Everest in June 2005. The book was presented during the ECAI-2006 opening.

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.

50 YEARS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ECCAI maintains a [web page](#) collecting the activities of the member societies celebrating the golden anniversary of the 1956 Dartmouth Conference that marks the beginning of AI as a research field.

ECAI-2006 STAND

ECCAI has a complimentary stand at ECAI-2006 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 Chairman