



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Presented at the ECCAI General Assembly on 24 August 2007 at
ACAI-2007, Leuven, Belgium.

Founded in 1982, ECCAI currently represents 26 European societies for Artificial Intelligence and is now 25 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 6 awards of 400 Euros were given to students attending ACAI-2007. Membership: AEPIA (1), CSKI (1), ÖGAI (1), AISB (2), ACIA (1), SLAIS (1). Further one award was given to support the participation of Central & Eastern European researchers in ACAI-2007. Thanks to Gerd Brewka for organising this.

DISSERTATION AWARD

The ECCAI Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award 2006 goes to Kristian Kersting, Institute for Computer Science, Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg, Germany, for his thesis "An Inductive Logic Programming Approach to Statistical Relational Learning". The dissertation is already published in the "Frontiers of AI" series of IOS Press. The Award Ceremony takes place during ACAI-2007. Thanks to Ulises Cortes for coordinating this big task. There were a total of 11 submissions.

ECCAI FELLOWS

Nine new fellows were selected by the ECCAI Fellow Selection Committee for 2007:

Name	Country	Society	Institute
Ernst Dickmanns	Germany	GI/KI	Universität der Bundeswehr
Marco Dorigo	Belgium	BNVKI	Université Libre de Bruxelles
Linda van der Gaag	The Netherlands	BNVKI	Universiteit Utrecht
Frank van Harmelen	The Netherlands	BNVKI	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
David Hogg	UK	AISB	University of Leeds
Teuvo Kohonen	Finland	FAIS	Helsinki University of Technology
Nada Lavrac	Slovenia	SLAIS	Jozef Stefan Institute
Carme Torras	Spain	ACIA	Spanish Scientific Research Council (CSIC-UPC)
Michael Wooldridge	UK	AISB	University of Liverpool

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 Luigia Carlucci Aiello, Marie-Odile Cordier, Werner Horn, Bernhard Nebel, Luis Moniz Pereira, Henri Prade and Austin Tate. The ECCAI Fellows lunch takes place on Friday lunchtime 24 August during ACAI-2007 in Leuven.

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 currently appears 5 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 third 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 final report of ECAI-2006 demonstrates both the scientific and the financial success of this ECAI conference. 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.

ACAI-2007

The Advanced Course on Artificial Intelligence is devoted to the topic "Logic for AI". 58 young researchers are registered in ACAI-2007. It takes place from August 20-28th 2007 in Leuven, Belgium. The strong attendance and the outstanding speakers make this event a real success. Congratulations and many thanks to the organizer, Hendrik Blockeel.

COOPERATION WITH IOS PRESS

We continue to cooperate with IOS press on the publication of ECAI proceedings and of AI Coms. The current ECCAI Proceedings 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 Enrico Giunchiglia. Enrico has taken over the editorship from Toby Walsh at the beginning of 2007. The members of the ECCAI member societies have access to the on-line version through the web site of Metapress. A new access scheme has been implemented. It allows easy direct online access without passwording based on a referrer scheme. This access is tested for suitability on the 20th anniversary volume of AICom.

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.

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-2007 STAND

ECCAI had a complimentary stand at IJCAI-2007 to promote ECCAI and its member societies. Such an exhibition stand is a great chance for the member societies to promote their activities and events to the AI community. Societies are encouraged to take advantage of this.

Werner Horn
ECCAI Chairman