Preface

Welcome to the Fifteenth International FLAIRS Conference and to Pensacola Beach.

FLAIRS is held in cooperation with the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). The conference continues its tradition of attracting a large number of international authors and participants. The program includes papers from authors all over the world. In the general session, we accepted approximately sixty percent of the submitted papers. We have an outstanding program with several excellent papers that span many areas in AI.

A best paper award will be presented at the conference and a number of papers will be selected for consideration for a special issue of the *Journal of Pattern Recognition and Artificial Intelligence.*

The topics covered this year in the general session include interactive tutoring, machine learning, constraint satisfaction and theorem proving, robotics, genetic algorithms, agent architectures, automated reasoning, and natural language processing.

The program features fourteen special tracks on artificial intelligence in educational information technology, spatiotemporal reasoning, semantic web, neural networks, machine learning, evaluation of intelligent systems, categorization and concept representation models and implications, imprecise and indeterminate probabilities in artificial intelligence, uncertain reasoning, integrated intelligent systems, knowledge management, case-based reasoning, artificial intelligence in areospace, and behavioral characteristics and AI systems.

In addition, we are pleased to have the following invited presentations by seven distinguished speakers:

■ Pamella Dana, Florida Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development

- James Allen, University of Rochester
- Randall Beer, Case Western Reserve University
- Jeffery Bradshaw, University of West Florida, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition
- William Clancey, University of West Florida, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition and NASA, Ames Research Center
- Clark Glymour, University of West Florida, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition and Carnegie Mellon University
- Patrick J. Hayes, University of West Florida, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition

The program and these proceedings are the product of the collaboration and hard work of several committed people. We were fortunate to work with a great group of committee members whose prompt and thorough review of the papers contributed significantly to the quality of these proceedings. Many thanks to the authors without whose contribution these proceedings would not have existed. We are grateful to the hard work of the special track chairs for organizing several quality special track sessions.

We would like to acknowledge FLAIRS-2002 general chair, John Kolen, for his efforts in the overall organization of the conference. Mike Hamilton and Elizabeth Ericson at AAAI Press have provided us with invaluable assistance with the production of these proceedings and with keeping us advised of the various deadlines. Jean Gerber's thorough and efficient work on registration issues and details has provided for a smooth process and we are fortunate to have Jean handle conference administration and registration. We hope you find reading the proceedings enjoyable!

– *Susan Haller and Gene Simmons*
FLAIRS-2002 Program Cochairs