

# Preface

Welcome to the Eighteenth International FLAIRS Conference and to Clearwater Beach!

We are pleased to present this proceedings of the Eighteenth International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference (FLAIRS '05). This volume consists of many excellent papers spanning several areas of AI. The FLAIRS program also features seventeen special tracks, which increases the breadth and depth of subjects covered by the conference.

This year we received a substantial number of submissions. The overall acceptance rate was 52.6 percent, with a 49.3 percent acceptance rate to the general conference.

The FLAIRS conference continues its cooperation with the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). The conference also continues to attract a large number of authors and participants from around the world. A best paper award will be presented at the conference and several papers have been selected for publication consideration in a special issue of the *International Journal on Artificial Intelligence Tools (IJAIT)*.

We are pleased to present the following distinguished invited speakers:

*Lawrence Hunter*, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center: "Biognostic Systems"

*Martha Pollack*, University of Michigan Intelligent Technology: "An Aging Population: The Use of AI to Assist Elders with Cognitive Impairment"

*Ted Senator*, DARPA / IPTO: "Link Analysis: AI Applications and Research"

*David Stork*, Ricoh Innovations and Stanford University: "Did Renaissance Masters 'Cheats' using Optics? Computer Image Analysis and Computer Graphics Address a Bold Theory in the History of Art."

We are fortunate to have worked with a wonderful group of program and special track committee members whose prompt and thorough reviews of the papers contributed greatly to the quality of these proceedings. The program and the proceedings would not have been possible without the collaboration and hard work of several committed people whose efforts resulted in this excellent program.

We are also grateful to the commitment and hard work of the special tracks chairs for organizing a number of quality special tracks and to Todd Neller for coordinating all these special tracks. Ultimately, it is the participation of those who attend that makes the conference what it is. Many thanks to all the authors for making the conference what it is today.

The general chairs, Diane Cook and Larry Holder, have done a superb job in the overall organization of the conference. Mike Hamilton and the staff at AAAI have gone above and beyond in producing these proceedings. And, as is the case year after year, Jean Gerber has handled all the conference registrations in a thorough and efficient fashion.

We hope you enjoy the conference and find these proceedings to be a valuable resource in the future.

Zdravko Markov and Ingrid Russell  
*FLAIRS 2005 Program Chairs*