

Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the Twenty-First International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-21) held 15–17 May 2008, in Coconut Grove, Florida, USA. The call for papers attracted 181 paper submissions — 29 to the general conference and 152 to the 11 special tracks. Over 90 percent of the papers were reviewed by at least 4 reviewers, and all papers by at least three. These were coordinated by the program committees of the general conference and the special tracks. The program committees accepted the 107 papers that appear in these proceedings, all as presented papers (29 from the general conference and 78 from the special tracks) and 23 as poster papers (8 from the general conference and 15 from the special tracks).

The best paper award went to David Aha and Matthew Molineaux: “Learning Continuous Action Models in a Real-Time Strategy Environment,” which was submitted to the Case-based Reasoning special track. The best student paper award went to Cosmin Bejan for “Unsupervised Discovery of Event Scenarios from Texts,” a submission to the Applied Natural Language Processing special track.

The general conference program included three invited talks. Candace L. Sidner of BAE Systems Advanced Information Technologies gave the talk “Humanoid Intelligent Agents as Hosts, Advisors, Companions, and Jesters.” Alfred Kobsa of the University of California, Irvine talked on “Privacy-Enhanced Personalization.” Finally, Bruce Buchanan of the University of Pittsburgh gave a talk on “An AI Model of Creativity.” Within the special tracks there were four invited talks, given by Kevin Ashley (“Some Thoughts on Using Computers to Teach Argumentation”), Jean-Pierre Desclés (“Towards a Bridge between Cognitive Linguistics and Formal Ontology”), David Leake (“Provenance and Case-Based Reasoning”), and Florian Stadlbauer (“Belief Update Using Graphs”).

Thanks go to the authors (of both accepted and rejected papers); the special track coordinator Hans Guesgen and all the special track organizers; the program committees and their reviewers; the invited speakers; Geoff Sutcliffe for organizing the conference; Jean Gerber for administering the conference; the Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society for maintaining the conference series; the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence for its cooperation with the conference; AAAI Press for organizing the publication of the proceedings; and EasyChair for hosting the review process.

H. Chad Lane and David Wilson
FLAIRS-21 Program Chairs