Report on the 30th International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference (FLAIRS-30)

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■ *The 30th International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society Conference (FLAIRS-30) was held May 22–24, 2017, at the Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort and Spa in Marco Island, Florida, USA. The conference events included invited speakers, special tracks, and presentations of papers, posters, and awards. The conference chair was Ingrid Russell from the University of Hartford. The program cochairs were Vasile Rus from the University of Memphis and Zdravko Markov from Central Connecticut State University. The special tracks were coordinated by Keith Brawner from the Army Research Laboratory.*

The Florida Artificial Intelligence Society (FLAIRS) was founded in 1987 to promote and advance artificial intelligence research in the state of Florida and to foster the exchange of ideas and collaboration among the state's researchers from universities and industry through an annual conference. Shortly thereafter the FLAIRS conference, a general AI conference, grew to become a major venue for AI researchers from around the world to present their work. The conference continues its in-cooperation status with the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence.

Continuing a long tradition of presenting and discussing state-of-the-art artificial intelligence research in a sociable atmosphere within a beautiful setting, the 30th International Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Soci-

ety Conference (FLAIRS-30) took place May 22–24, 2017, in Marco Island, Florida, USA. It attracted 192 participants from 20 countries, with about one-third coming from outside the United States. The program included a general session with many excellent papers spanning a broad range of AI research areas and comprising traditional topics such as machine learning, reasoning, and optimization. Seventeen special tracks with several outstanding papers supplemented the program, bringing breadth to the general session. An integral part of the conference, the special tracks, are intended to provide researchers working in similar areas the opportunity to meet and to present work in those areas. These focused sessions also offer forums for interactions among a broader community of AI researchers. The special tacks program included sessions and papers on AI and Cyber-Security, AI in Games, Serious Games, and Multimedia, AI in Health-Care Informatics, Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Business and Industry, Applied Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence for Big Social Data Analysis, Autonomous Robots and Agents, Case-Based Reasoning, Data Mining, Learning from Heterogeneous Data Analytics, Intelligent Learning Technologies, Intelligent Support for Decision Making, Natural Language Processing of Ancient and Other Low-Resource Languages, Nonclassical Logic, Recommender Systems, Semantic / Logics / Information Extraction and AI, and Uncertain Reasoning.

The call for papers attracted 199 submissions, 55 to the general conference and 144 to the special tracks, and 26 poster abstracts. The accepted submissions included 103 full papers, 30 from the general conference and 73 from the special tracks, 36 short papers presented as posters, and 25 poster abstracts that appeared in the proceedings. The best paper award went to Thomas E. Allen, Cory Siler, and Judy Goldsmith for Learning Tree-Structured CP-Nets with Local Search. The best student paper was awarded to Yanbing Xue and Milos Hauskrecht for Robust Learning of Classification Models from Noisy Soft-Label Information. The best poster award was presented to Deya Banisakher, Naphtali Rishe, Mark Finlayson, and Ivanka Marinovic for their paper A Supervised Classification Approach to Predicting Knee Pain Improvement in Osteoarthritis Patients.

The conference featured a stimulating set of invited talks by three distinguished speakers. Thomas G. Dietterich from Oregon State University gave a talk titled Robust Artificial Intelligence: Why and How. Jiawei Han of University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign talked about Mining Structures from Massive Text Data: A Data-Driven Approach. James Allen of Florida Institute of Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC) and the University of Rochester talk was titled Towards Broad-Coverage Deep Language Understanding. In addition, the special track invited speakers were David Traum from the University of

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Southern California, Institute for Creative Technologies, whose talk was titled Using Dialogue System Technology to Support Interactive History Learning; Guy Van den Broeck from the University of California at Los Angeles who gave a presentation on Open-World Probabilistic Databases; Kyle Johnson of Accenture who spoke on Dead languages Reborn in Assembly: NLP for Ancient Traditions; and David Aha of Navy Research Laboratory whose talk was titled Case-Based Goal Reasoning.

The next FLAIRS conference (FLAIRS-31) will be held May 21–23, 2018, in Melbourne, Florida, USA. Information about FLAIRS-31, including the call for papers, is available online.[1]

Note

1. See www.flairs-31.info.

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