
Report on SIGSEM, July 2006
Patrick Blackburn

The major event organised by SIGSEM in 2006 was ICoS-5, the fifth workshop on Inference in Computational Semantics, which was held from 20 - 21 April 2006 in Buxton, England. ICoS-5 was widely regarded by participants as the most successful and interesting ICoS to date, with a number of interesting new developments and directions becoming evident. The invited speakers were:

Christian Ebert (University of Bielefeld): Expressive Power and Complexity of Underspecified Representations

Patrick Pantel (ISI, University of Southern California): Knowledge Harvesting and Fusion from Small and Large Corpora

Stephen Pulman (Oxford University): Bridging the gap between formal and computational semantics

In addition, 12 research papers and 6 short papers/posters were presented. The Richard Montague Memorial award (the traditional ICoS award for best presentation) was awarded to

Patrick Pantel

for his invited talk.

The events endorsed by SIGSEM in 2006 were:

Robotics: Science & Systems 2006 Workshop on Intuitive Human-Robot Interaction For Getting The Job Done.
Philadelphia PA, August 18 2006

KONVENS06: workshop on on the Interface between Lexical and Discourse Semantics. Konstanz, Germany, October 7, 2006

DELFI 2006: workshop on Natural Language Processing
in Augmented and Ambient
Learning. Darmstadt, Germany, September, 11th 2006

As far upcoming activities, the next large workshop in which SIGSEM will be involved is the Seventh International Workshop on Computational Semantics (IWCS-7) which will be held at Tilburg University, The Netherlands, from 10-12 January 2007. This event is held every two years (at Tilburg) and is the main workshop solely devoted to computational semantics.

And, last but not least, SIGSEM elections will be held later this year. Patrick Blackburn, the SIGSEM president, has already made it known he will not be standing for re-election. The election process should be finished by the end of the year, or early in 2007, and it is hoped that IWCS-7 will provide a forum in which the new SIGSEM team can meet to discuss their plans.