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U.S. Graduate Student Travel to the Second AgentLink European Agent Systems Summer School (EASSS) 2000

Thomas A. Wagner

Principal Investigator; University of Maine, Orono

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Principal Investigator: Wagner, Thomas A.

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Title:

U.S. Graduate Student Travel to the Second AgentLink European Agent Systems Summer School (EASSS) 2000

Project Participants

Senior Personnel

Name: Wagner, Thomas

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Post-doc

Graduate Student

Undergraduate Student

Technician, Programmer

Other Participant

Research Experience for Undergraduates

Organizational Partners

Other Collaborators or Contacts

Activities and Findings

Journal Publications

Books or Other One-time Publications

Web/Internet Site

Other Specific Products

Contributions

Categories for which nothing is reported:

Organizational Partners

Activities and Findings: Any Research and Education Activities

Activities and Findings: Any Findings

Activities and Findings: Any Training and Development

Activities and Findings: Any Outreach Activities

Any Journal

Any Book

Any Web/Internet Site

Any Product

Any Contribution

**Graduate Student Travel to the Second
European Agent Systems Summer School**

NSF Contract # IIS-0089901

Final Report

2/6/2004

PI:

Dr. Tom Wagner
Honeywell Laboratories
3660 Technology Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-951-7313

Tom.Wagner@honeywell.com

Previously of the University of Maine

Contracts Contact:

Ms. Arlene Russell
University of Maine
Office of Research & Sponsored Programs
420 Corbett Hall
Orono, ME 04469-5717
(207)581-1471

arlene.russell@umit.maine.edu

1. Project Summary

This project supported travel by US graduate students to the Second European Summer School on Agents (EASS 2000), held in Saarbrücken, Germany, from August 14-18, 2000. The school provided an invaluable opportunity for graduate students to become intimately familiar with the field and represented a locus of learning not found elsewhere. Fifteen US graduate students were funded under this project.

2. Project Description

2.1 Travel Support

This project supported travel by US graduate students to the Second European Summer School on Agents (EASS 2000), held in Saarbrücken, Germany, from August 14-18, 2000. Fifteen US graduate students were funded under this project.

2.1 The School

The Second European Summer School on Agents (EASS 2000) was organized by AgentLink -- Europe's ESPRIT-funded Network of Excellence for agent-based computing. AgentLink is a coordinating organization for research and development activities in the area of agent-based computer systems funded by the European Commission. It supports a range of activities aimed at raising the profile, quality, and industrial relevance of agent systems in Europe.

The annual summer school is a world-class event, bringing together internationally recognized researchers in the area of agents and multi-agent systems. The school consists of a mixture of introductory and advanced courses, covering the full range of theoretical and practical aspects of agent-based computing. The year 2000 courses covered topics such as:

- Foundations of Intelligent Agents and Multi-agent Systems
- Logical Foundations of Agent Systems
- Problem Solving and Planning
- Intelligent Cooperative Information Systems
- Coordination, Communication, and Collaboration
- Automated Negotiation and Decision Making
- Computational Markets
- Organization Design
- Societies of Artificial Agents and Social Simulation
- Behavior-oriented Control of Physical Agents
- Learning Agents
- Interface Agents
- Mobile Agents and Security
- Agent-oriented Software Engineering
- Intelligent Agents for Telecommunication Applications
- Agent-Mediated Electronic Business
- Industrial and Commercial Applications
- Agents Standards Activities

The courses and invited lectures were presented by internationally leading experts in the field. The list of EASSS 2000 lecturers and invited speakers included:

- Elisabeth Andre, DFKI GmbH, Germany
- Thomas Christaller & Hans-Ulrich Kobialka, GMD, Germany
- Paul Davidsson, University of Karlskrona-Ronneby, Sweden
- Yves Demazeau, Leibniz/IMAG, France
- Klaus Fischer, DFKI GmbH, Germany
- Matthias Klusch, DFKI GmbH, Germany
- Sarit Kraus, University of Maryland College Park, USA
- Van Parunak, ERIM Center for E-Commerce, USA
- Volker Roth, FHG, Germany
- Sandip Sen, University of Tulsa, USA
- Jrg Siekmann, DFKI GmbH, Germany
- Jan Treur, Free University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Christian Tschudin, University of Uppsala, Sweden
- Wiebe van der Hoek, University of Utrecht, Netherlands
- Wolfgang Wahlster, DFKI GmbH, Germany
- Michael J. Wooldridge, University of Liverpool, UK
- Franco Zambonelli, University of Modena, Italy

The school also serves industrial and academic researchers who want to learn more about agents and the evolving state of agent technology. The attendance of students is critical for maintaining and expanding the agent computing momentum. As the European community is contributing a significant percentage of the research in agent computing, the school's international character has particular value to US students and researchers.

2.3 Selection Process

Student applicants were asked to submit a current curriculum vitae and a statement of interest that explained both their interest and their need for the travel grant. We made two types of awards:

- Awards to graduate students who were performing research in Agents and Multi-agent Systems, possibly under the tutelage of established researchers. Preference was given to less senior students and those who are just beginning their research careers.
- Awards to established/senior students in other related fields who have shown an interest in applying agent technologies to their field.

The awardees were chosen based on their academic credentials and demonstrated financial need. The selection committee consisted of:

- Michael N. Huhns, University of South Carolina.
- Sandip Sen, University of Tulsa.
- Roy Turner, University Maine.

- Jos'e M. Vidal, University of South Carolina.
- Thomas Wagner, University Maine.

2.3 Relevance to US competitiveness in developing technologies

Intelligent agent technology has ushered in a new paradigm for development and deployment of software applications in a variety of industries and fields. This is a global phenomenon and the US must maintain its technical edge over its competitors to sustain its primary position in the software world. We believe that globally speaking, we will find more and more agent-based applications in the near future. It is in our national interest to have more US researchers trained in these research areas. The EASS 2000 school provided new researchers with the opportunity to immerse themselves in this field and understand the latest developments as explained by the same people responsible for their discovery. The fact that the school is held in Europe and is sponsored by AgentLink means that the American graduate students funded under this project have a unique chance for direct exposure to research and researchers not available in the US. The graduate students also learned about the European AgentLink organization and established long-term collaborative research ties, which can only benefit US competitiveness in the future.

3. Outcome

Fifteen US graduate students were selected and awarded travel grants under this project. The response from the graduate students was overwhelmingly positive. The goals and objectives of this project were met and the desired positive impact achieved.