Foreword

PHILOSOPHERS AND SCIENTISTS THROUGHOUT THE AGES have struggled to gain an understanding of the nature of time. The ideas that have emerged as a result have been applied by computer scientists to the design and analysis of computer programs, and to automate tasks requiring the storage and management of temporal information.

TIME-98 — like the four workshops that preceded it — has the goal of creating an international forum for the exchange of ideas among researchers who are developing and applying techniques in temporal data management and reasoning.

The previous TIME workshops successfully provided a mechanism for people involved in temporal reasoning to form a sense of community. One result of the workshops has been an increase in communication among these professionals. TIME-98 continues to widen and strengthen ties among the temporal reasoning community by providing a forum for talks on successful applications and ongoing research and development in temporal reasoning.

This year’s symposium is highlighted by two exceptional invited talks, one each by James Allen and Bernhard Nebel, as well as by a wide range of high quality technical papers, both theoretical and applied. The latter tended to fit in one, and sometimes more, of the following categories:

- Temporal Logics
- Representational Issues
- Temporal Constraint Reasoning
- Temporal Databases

The continuing success of the TIME workshops is a testimony to the vibrancy of this area of research. We hope that interested readers of these proceedings who have not participated in the TIME workshops will consider doing so in the future. Of course, you will need to be able to tolerate the warm breezes and comfortable sunshine typical of Florida in late spring.

On behalf of the entire organizing committee for the TIME workshops, we would like to welcome the participants in this year’s symposium and express our gratitude to them, as well as to the TIME-98 program committee and invited speakers, for contributing to the success of the workshop.

Lina Khatib
Robert Morris
TIME-98 Program Chairs