

ICS 2007 Conference in Coral Gables, Florida

By Ed Baker

The tenth conference of the INFORMS Computing Society convened Wednesday January 3rd through Friday January 5th, 2007 in Coral Gables, Florida. The meeting featured the presentation of 65 papers submitted by 130 authors with special clusters in Networks and Graphs, Vehicle Routing and the TSP, Constraint Programming, Grid Computing, COIN-OR, Simulation, Integer Programming, Heuristic Search, Computational Complexity, and Decision Technologies. All attendees received a copy of the conference volume *Extending the Horizons: Advances in Computing, Optimization, and Decision Technologies* edited by the conference co-chairs, Ed Baker, Anito Joseph, Anuj Mehrotra, and Mike Trick, and published by Springer Science+Business Media, LLC.

In addition to the exciting program of academic and practitioner presentations, the conference featured several highlights. The attendees were welcomed to South Florida with a reception on Wednesday evening in the Colonnade Rotunda. The Rotunda, modeled on the Palladian villa, featured a classic fountain at the center of marble colonnade supporting a second floor gallery and a large domed ceiling with oval skylight. The architectural ambience was complemented with good food and beverages, as well as, the jazz renderings of local keyboard artist Ryan Ellis, allowing the members to meet and greet their fellow attendees in a casual and relaxed setting.

On Thursday morning, Dr. Robert Atlas, Director of the NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories located on nearby Virginia Key, gave the plenary address. Dr. Atlas presented some of his recent work on vortex (hurricane) modeling that employed the NASA Columbia supercomputer. Dr. Atlas predicted that with the rate of increase in computing power and modeling complexity of atmospheric phenomena, accurate two-week forecasts of hurricanes and other weather phenomena should be available within the next decade.

Immediately following the plenary address was the conference luncheon. After the delicious "Tastes of South Florida" menu, Dr. Harvey Greenberg shared some remarks on "Operations Research/Computer Science Interfaces" and their relevance to the INFORMS Computing Society. At the conclusion of Harvey's remarks, John Chinneck, Chair of the ICS, announced that, by unanimous vote of the Board of the Society, the recently established ICS Service Award would hereafter be known as the Harvey J. Greenberg Award for Service to ICS.

A final presentation to Harvey was made by Dr. Shihab Asfour, Chair of the Industrial Engineering Department at the University of Miami. Harvey, a 1962 graduate from the University of Miami, was recognized by the university's Industrial Engineering Department for his distinguished career of academic achievement and government service.

The conference was fortunate to enjoy the support of several local sponsors. The organizers wish to thank the School of Business at the University of Miami, the NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories, the Transportation Research Institute of Miami, and the South Florida Chapter of INFORMS for their very generous support in helping to make the tenth INFORMS Computing Society conference a great success.



Harvey Greenberg receives a certificate renaming the ICS Service Award to The Harvey J. Greenberg Award for Service to ICS.



Shihab Asfour presents award to Harvey Greenberg.



Dr. Robert Atlas delivering the plenary address.



The Maryland Mob



Coffee Break!