

Preface: General Chair

This is the second year that the annual ACL Conference has had a General Chair to support the work of its Program Co-Chairs and Local Arrangement Chair. My job was to fill out this Conference Organising Team with its full complement of energetic, efficient and creative people, and then respond with whatever tiny bits of advice seemed to be needed to let them get on with their jobs. The Organising Team has done a magnificent job.

The Program Co-Chairs – Norbert Reithinger (DFKI) and Giorgio Satta (University of Padua) – have stayed unflappable and on course, despite successive avalanches of papers and reviews and a scheduling problem that would make lesser people weep.

The Workshop Chair – Rebecca Bruce (University of North Carolina, Asheville) – has overseen the task of moving from a deskful of disparate and demanding workshop proposals to a coherent workshop program with the utmost tact and resourcefulness, and with her sense of humor intact.

The Tutorial Co-Chairs – Paolo Merlo (University of Geneva) and Gertjan van Noord (Alfa-informatica, University of Groningen) – ended up all too successful in encouraging tutorial proposals, so had to work their way judiciously through an embarrassment of riches, in coming up with the five excellent tutorials in this year's program.

The Publications Chair – Roberto Zamparelli (University of Bergamo) – may regret ever having indicated an interest in electronic publishing. A joint meeting of the American and European chapters of the ACL, with its attendant workshops, is nothing less than a publicational baptism by fire. We all owe him a debt of thanks.

The Student Research Workshop Co-Chairs – Eleni Miltsakaki (University of Pennsylvania), Christof Monz (University of Amsterdam) and António Ribeiro (University of Lisbon) – oversaw on a smaller scale, all the demanding tasks of the Conference Program Co-Chairs on the large – picking an excellent set of reviewers, assigning papers, coordinating and mediating reviews, and coming up with a schedule for three parallel sessions of student research papers. The Advisor to the Student Research Workshop – Marilyn Walker (ATT Research Laboratories) – also deserves our thanks for her constant attention to details.

The Local Arrangements Chair – Patrick St. Dizier (IRIT-TALN, Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse) – has been laboring for over a year on the overwhelming number of arrangements needed for a successful ACL conference. Patrick and his Local Arrangements Committee, in particular, deserve our thanks: Farah Benamara, Mohand Boughanem, Didier Bourigault, Myriam Bras, Anne Condamines, Cecile Fabre, Isabelle Leonard, Josiane Mothe, Phillipe Muller, Florence Sedes, Chantal Soule-Dupuy, Laure Vieu and Gilles Zurfluh. We must also give many thanks to Claude Grapeloup and to Jacques Despons for their help with accounting.

Finally, our thanks go to ELSNET for their support in co-organising the invited panel on *Language Entrepreneurship*, and to Steven Krauwer of Utrecht University and ELSNET for agreeing to chair the panel.

A successful conference is the result of the combined efforts of its Conference Organising Team. We could not have had one better.

Bonnie Lynn Webber
General Chair
May 2001