

Editorial

With this issue of *The Knowledge Engineering Review*, we mark the retirement of one co-Editor-in-Chief and the appointment of another. Professor Adele Howe of the Computer Science Department of Colorado State University served as co-Editor from 1996 to 2006. We are very grateful for her involvement in the journal and express our gratitude for her dedication and devotion to this task. Her input will be sorely missed. Adele's successor is Dr Peter McBurney of the Computer Science Department of the University of Liverpool. Peter's research is primarily on software agent interaction, and he was the co-ordinator of AgentLink III, a project funded by the European Commission to support the development and commercial application of agent-based computing (www.agentlink.org).

With this issue, we are launching several new features in the journal that we hope will become regular items. The first of these is a listing of recent PhD degrees awarded in artificial intelligence and computer science in the area of knowledge engineering. Each listing includes an abstract of the PhD thesis and a web address where further information can be obtained. A second feature, which we plan to include from a later issue, is a listing of major research projects, funded by national and international organizations, in the areas covered by the journal. Both these features are intended to support better dissemination of recent research and to enable greater awareness by researchers of each other's work. We welcome contributions for future issues to either of these two new features, and we will be making public calls for contributions in due course. Suggestions for similar features or sections are also most welcome.

In addition to these two features, we aim to expand the coverage given in the journal to applications of knowledge-based technologies, with commentary and reporting on applications and lessons learnt from them. Perhaps more than any other branch of computer science, artificial intelligence has developed through a subtle dance of theory with application, with one partner or the other taking the lead at different times in the subject's history. Intelligent reflection and debate on both aspects and their interplay is essential, we believe, for artificial intelligence's continued progress, and we hope that *The Knowledge Engineering Review* can help to encourage this reflection.

The Editors