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FROM MAASTRICHT TO TILBURG

As per September 1, 2008 the ICGA Headquarters are moving from Maastricht, the Netherlands to Tilburg, the Netherlands. After 21 years of services to the Maastricht University your Editor has accepted an offer by the Tilburg University that he could not refuse. Together with his close colleague Professor Eric Postma he moves to Tilburg, where he is given the opportunity to lead a brand-new research centre called Tilburg Centre for Creative Computing (TiCC). The research centre will have five full professors, sufficient research money, and the full support of the Tilburg University authorities. The centre will focus on three domains: vision (led by Eric Postma), language (led by Antal van den Bosch), and (serious) gaming (led by Jaap van den Herik, who also acts as Director of the Centre). Many colleague researchers/collaborators from Maastricht will join the new research group at TiCC. Most notably among them is Johanna Hellemons who will continue her work as Editorial Manager in Tilburg.

The news was a shock for Maastricht, Limburg, and the Netherlands. Every respected daily newspaper reported on the transition by Van den Herik and Postma. Here, the most crispy statement came from the Chairman of the VSNU (Verenigde Samenwerkende Nederlandse Universiteiten; the Union of the Collaborative Dutch Universities), Dr. Sijbold Noorda, who straightforwardly expressed his understanding by stating: “Mobility shows spirit”.

Admittedly, a move from Maastricht to Tilburg implies a farewell to some well-known names. Many of them will not escape the scope of our community, but one name does: Tons van den Bosch. Long-time members of the ICGA (previously ICCA) will remember her from the many activities she performed in the years 1990 up to 1997 (see ICCA Journal, Vol. 20, No. 2, p. 70). In 2005, she returned at our institute MICC-IKAT and took up some of her responsibilities for the ICGA. It was if she had never left.

In 2007, Tons van den Bosch and Johanna Hellemons were both instrumental to the success of our ICGA President David Levy. During his public defence for the Doctor’s title they were his *paranimfs*. Soon after this defence Tons became seriously ill. Currently she is in a phase of strengthening her forces, but she is not expected to resume work soon. The ICGA is grateful to her for all the services delivered and for her enthusiasm to help transforming the members of the ICGA into a society of friends who love research in games and game environments, and who love to meet each other once a year at the Computer Olympiad, the Computer and Games Conference, and at the World Computer-Chess Championship.

This year, the meeting of friends will be in Beijing, China. It will be soon (September/October 2008) as is announced in the March issue. The subscription figures at this point in time show that the three ICGA events in Beijing are expected to be the most successful ones of all. Over one hundred people are participating. The world of games will have a golden time in Beijing and the ICGA hopes to reap the fruits from these successful events.

Meanwhile the Editorial team has the pleasure to offer you the June issue of the Journal. Three games received a great deal of attention: Go, Jeopardy Stochastic Games, and Chess. Obviously, nowadays there is no publication possible without Monte Carlo. The authors adequately go along with this statement. The second article deals with an interesting generalisation of Can't Stop, namely Jeopardy Stochastic Games. It can be seen as a completely new area of games research. Analogously, the article on chess is actually on 'chess and measuring its beauty'. It is not on new chess programming techniques. Finally, it is worthwhile to mention that the proceedings of the CG 2008 are currently with Springer-Verlag. They will be delivered in time – we hope – in China for our Conference, where we will see 24 contributors gathering; they will inform us on their latest findings. Therefore, I hope to see many of you soon in China.

Jaap van den Herik

New Addresses

As per September 1, 2008 the following new addresses are relevant for communication with the ICGA and their officers.

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Tons van den Bosch with one of her dogs.



Chinese Wall.

ICGA Journal readers who are interested in information on our publications are referred to our website. A complete list of all articles, notes, and literature reviews published in the *ICGA Journal* and the *ICGA Journal* is accessible on the Internet at <http://www.icga.org>

The credits of the photographs in this issue are to: Mr. R. van 't Riet (p. 66), www.GreatWallBeijing.com (p. 66), Mr. T. Tillemans (p. 118), Mr. A. Morozov (p. 120), and Mr. G. Chaslot (p. 126).