

eNTERFACE 2005 Daily

Monday, August 8th

Behind the Scenes

Everybody knows François and Stéphanie, two of the organizers team. It is quite logical as they are everywhere taking care of eNTERFACE participants. François usually works on an EUREKA research project which focuses on the use of voice quality analyses for the design of natural sounding synthetic speech databases. His work is supervised by Thierry and Baris (our tutorial chair just back from an express military service in Turkey; you'll have to meet him tomorrow for lunch!). François got first contacts with everybody by email. Before the opening day, he knew all names by heart and remembered already some anecdotes about each participant.

Stéphanie works in the Biomedical Signal Processing Group at TCTS Lab. Her PhD thesis, supported by Region Wallonne, focuses on the analysis of polysomnographic data for the automatic classification of sleep stages. Beware : she knows what you think before you start thinking of it :). Stéphanie, with the help of Dominique, another organizer, started to be busy with eNTERFACE by helping collecting funds to maximize our chances of success with this workshop. Then came team building... How to satisfy everybody's wishes while creating rich teams and making sure all the required expertise was available? Thierry and François had hard times fixing these details. Stéphanie's rigour led her to the ac-

counting task, creating the virtual link between researchers, their local universities, and the FPMs accounting department. Always accompanied with her red shoes box, Stéphanie was even asked if she slept with it! She also took part to two murders in the "Killer" game. The first murder had money as weapon, so it was obvious to perpetrate it with Stéphanie and the second one was to create an easier link between two people who did not know each other.

François took pleasure to organize this game, which was experienced two weeks before eNTERFACE with his scouts. Since he was chief for a long time, he enjoys animating groups of

people to initiate a kind atmosphere. In a multimodal workshop, he focused on the human-to-human interaction and he was really happy when he could see different people from different universities mixing together without barriers. Now, he very much enjoys evening drinks at Grand-Place of Mons with all researchers.

Stéphanie was totally scared of having to speak English but now she laughs at some of her mistakes. Speaking about her close wedding, she mentioned it as "weddings" and eNTERFACE participants were really

surprised she had several future husbands at the same time! Even if she met some difficulties to get back some of the Residence Hall keys (Stéphanie is an undoubtedly KEY person in eNTERFACE :)), she told us that compared to the workshop organization, her wedding preparations are a piece of wedding cake!

Céline & Matei

P.S.: The entire organization team will be presented soon. Patience ...

Researchers ... -... in starting blocks-

Last Friday in Auditoire 03, the last eNTERFACE'05 tutorials took place. A review of the state of the art in Speech Synthesis was presented by Prof. T. Dutoit, followed by a talk on commercial applications of multimodal interaction for large audiences, by Dr X. Maréchal, CEO of Alterface, a Belgian start-up company of UCL. Cooperation between modalities with the heart of the third and last talk, by Prof. J-C.Martin, from LIMSI-CNRS, France.

Pression in work rooms can be felt in this beginning of week. Some groups even ask to work later on evenings. Every team expects to produce results they could be proud of. Hence, last integration and last problems resolution will be done this week for the final presentation on Friday, August, 12th. Good luck everybody!

