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14. ABSTRACT This is a final report on AFOSR award number XXX for grant titled "The 2003 Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference" in support of the GECCO 2003 conference. The conference was very successful, with 520 attendees, 194 refereed papers and 119 refereed posters presented, selected from 441 submissions (up 33% from 2003). Attendees were from 33 different countries, providing a rich, diverse environment for scientific discussions. The acceptance rate was 46.5%. GECCO provided 31 tutorials and 13 workshops, led by premier presenters and discussants. We involved students at every level, in order to invest in the next generation of evolutionary computation scientists. There were 101 students who applied for travel support. All were funded to some extent, using this AFOSR grant; grants from NSE/EIA and NRL; and industrial donations from DaimlerChrysler, Philips Research, Sun Microsystems, and New Light Industries. Industrial grants were down significantly this year, despite our expanding the number of industries we contacted significantly. Several traditional donors were unable to donate for the first time. Grants and donations totaled \$37,000, which was above our historical average.					
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**COVER PAGE FOR FINAL REPORT ON GRANT
FROM THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

Title: The 2003 Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference

PIs: James A. Foster, Erick Cantu-Paz

Grant Number: F49620-03-1-0333

29 September 2003

This is a final report on AFOSR award number XXX for grant titled "The 2003 Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference" in support of the GECCO 2003 conference.

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Of the 101 students receiving awards, 43 were from U.S. institutions, and 14 were U.S. citizens. 93 were co-authors on papers published in the proceedings, 94 attended workshops, 11 were undergraduates and 18 were self-identified members of minority/protected groups. Popular workshops included the Undergraduate Workshop and the Graduate Student Workshop, both of which featured student presentations, critiques by peers and senior scientists, and advice on how to prepare and present scientific research.

We selected awardees on the basis of whether they were in a minority/protected group, whether they were undergraduates, whether they were presenting research in which they participated, and whether they were attending workshops (in that order). The minimum award was \$80, the maximum was \$890, and the median was \$485. We also provided very inexpensive housing for students, so even the minimum award was sufficient to provide student housing while presenting a paper and attending workshops and tutorials.

Thank you again for this grant. Without it, student participation in GECCO would have been seriously impaired.