

# AAAI News

*Fall News from the  
American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

## 2002 Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its three special awards in 2002, and is currently seeking nominations for the 2002 AAAI Classic Paper Award, the AAAI Distinguished Service Award, and the AAAI Effective Expository Writing Award. The 2002 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Third National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1983 in Washington, DC. The 2002 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. Finally, the AAAI Effective Expository Writing Award will honor the author(s) of a high quality, effective piece of writing, accessible to the general public or to a broad AI audience (not just a subarea), written within the last two years. The contribution should be based on sound science, interesting ideas or systematic review, with nontrivial content, but the award is primarily for the exposition.

All awards will be presented at AAAI-02 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and will include a certificate and \$2,500. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at [www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.html](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.html). The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2002. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org).

## AAAI-02 and IAAI-02 Conferences

The Eighteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence will be held

July 28 – August 1, 2002 at the Shaw Convention Center in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The Fourteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-02) will be collocated with IJCAI in Seattle.

AAAI-02 and IAAI-02 Calls for Technical Papers, Workshop Proposals, Tutorial Forum Proposals, Student Programs, Intelligent Systems Demonstrations, and other related programs have been mailed to all AAAI members. You can also view this information and more at [www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2002/aaai02.html](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2002/aaai02.html) and [www.aaai.org/Conferences/IAAI/2002/iaai02.html](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/IAAI/2002/iaai02.html). Inquiries may be addressed to [ncai@aaai.org](mailto:ncai@aaai.org).

Please note that the deadline for submission of electronic title pages and papers to AAAI-02 is January 21, 2002. Final papers are due January 22, 2002. IAAI-01 papers are due by January 22, 2002. Please watch the web site for other announcements regarding the program in 2002!

## Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Scholar and Volunteer Programs. The Student Scholar Program provides partial travel support and a complimentary technical program registration for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the technical program or letters of recommendation from their faculty advisor; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 15, 2002. In addition, repeat scholarship applicants must have fulfilled the volunteer and

reporting requirements for previous awards.

In the event that scholarship applications exceed available funds, preference will be given to students who have an accepted technical paper, and then to students who are actively participating in the conference in some way. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply.

After the conference, an expense report will be required to account for the funds awarded. For further information about the Scholarship Program, or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at [scholarships@aaai.org](mailto:scholarships@aaai.org), or 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Telephone: (650) 328-3123.

All student scholarship recipients will be required to participate in the Student Volunteer Program to support AAAI organizers in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Students not requiring travel assistance should only apply for the Volunteer Program, which provides complimentary registration to full time students, including conference proceedings, in exchange for assisting AAAI-02 organizers in Edmonton. This program does not provide any scholarship funds, and is designed for local students or students who have other sources for travel funds. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at [volunteer@aaai.org](mailto:volunteer@aaai.org). The deadline for volunteer applications is May 31, 2002.

## AAAI 2001 Fall Symposium Series

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence's 2001 Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 2–4, Sea Crest Conference Center in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. The topics of the five symposia will be:

- Anchoring Symbols to Sensor Data in Single and Multiple Robot Systems
- Emotional and Intelligent II: The Tangled Knot of Social Cognition

- Intent Inference for Collaborative Tasks
- Negotiation Methods for Autonomous Cooperative Systems
- Using Uncertainty within Computation

A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Saturday, November 3, and an informal reception will be held on Friday, November 2. Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. In addition to invited participants, a limited number of other interested parties will be allowed to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. Working notes will be prepared and distributed to participants in each symposium, but will not otherwise be available unless published as an AAAI Technical Report or edited collection.

The final deadline for registration is September 21, 2001. For registration information, please contact AAAI at [fss@aaai.org](mailto:fss@aaai.org) or visit AAAI's web site at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fall-symposia.html](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fall-symposia.html). A hotel room block has been reserved at the Sea Crest Resort. The cut-off date for reservations is October 1, 2001. Please call 1-800-225-3110 or 1-508-540-7602 for further information.

## AAAI INTEL ISEF Special Awards

Now in its third year, the AAAI Special Awards program at the annual Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) consists of up to 15 awards to recognize outstanding achievement in the area of intelligent computation and robotics. The awards are intended for the best exhibits in the area of computer science with an artificial intelligence component. Finalists in other areas with significant computer science components are also eligible. The student authors of each award-winning project share \$1,000 and each student receives a certificate and other mementos. The winners and their schools also receive a complimentary one-year membership in the AAAI, including a subscription to *AI Magazine*.

The 2001 winners are as follows:

## Congratulations to the 2001 AAAI Fellows!

Each year a small number of fellows are recognized for their unusual distinction in the profession and for their sustained contributions to the field for a decade or more. An official dinner and ceremony will be held in their honor at IJCAI-01 in Seattle, Washington.



Edmund H. Durfee, *University of Michigan*

For significant contributions to the field of multiagent systems, distributed computing and real-time intelligent control.



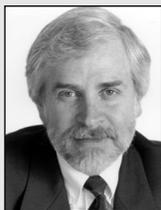
David Heckerman, *Microsoft Research*

For significant contributions to reasoning and learning under uncertainty.



Peter Norvig, *Google, Inc.*

For significant contributions to educational materials, natural language processing techniques, web-based technology, and research management and leadership.



Reid G. Smith, *Schlumberger Limited*

For significant contributions to the science and practice of knowledge management, and for his role as principal architect of the widely cited contract net methodology.



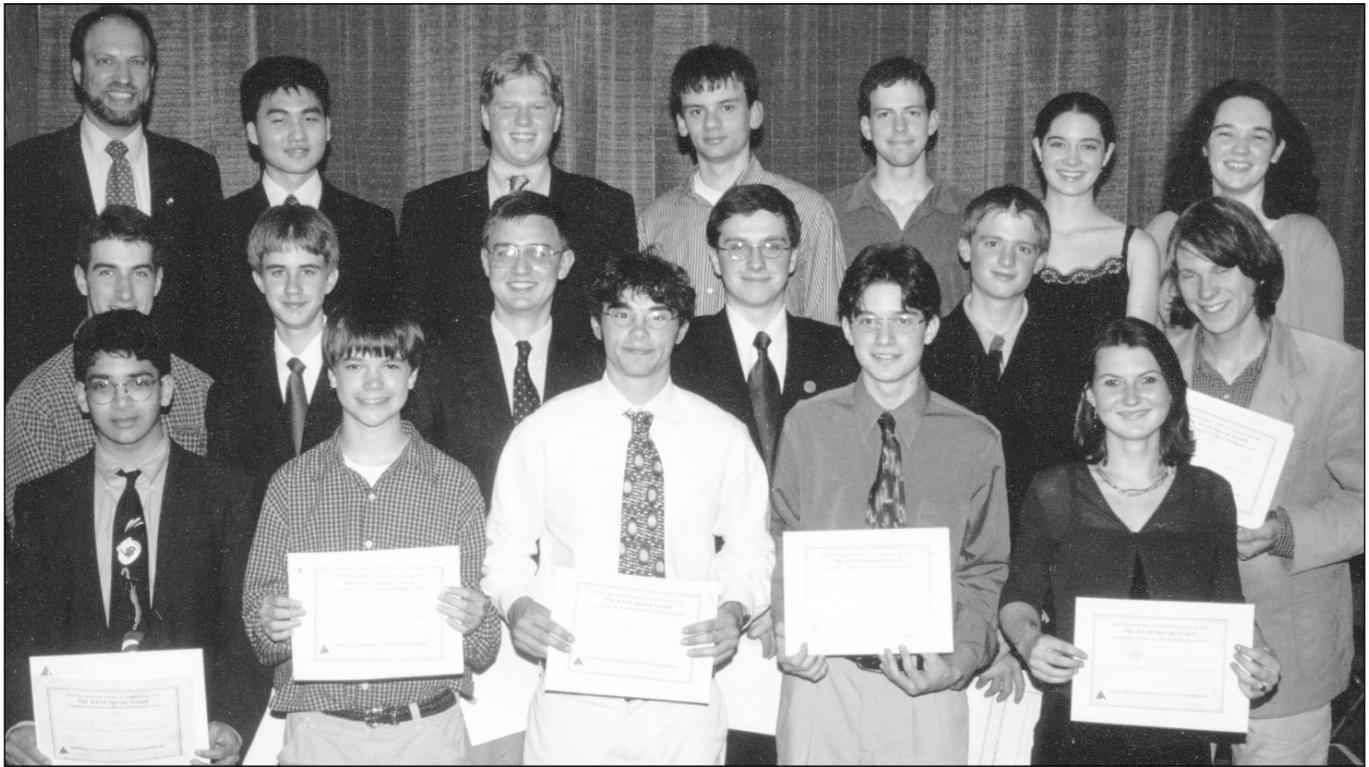
Richard S. Sutton, *AT&T Research*

For significant contributions to many topics in machine learning, including reinforcement learning, temporal difference techniques, and neural networks.



Michael Wellman, *University of Michigan*

For significant contributions to decision theory, qualitative probabilistic and utilitarian reasoning, planning, multiagent systems, computational economics, electronic commerce, and editing the *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research*.



*The AAAI Special Awards Program Winners from the Annual Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF)*

Isomap and Neural Networks:  
Comparison of Frameworks for  
Dimensionality

Kevin Scott Christopher  
*Engelwood, CO*

Greedy Random: A Novel Algorithm  
for Vehicle Routing Optimization

Dominik Rabiej  
*Mattawan, MI*

Comparison and Analysis of Pathfind-  
ing Algorithms

Scott Bender  
*Columbia, SC*

Compression-based Author Recogni-  
tion Algorithms

Rishi Mukhopadhyay  
*Bloomfield Hills, MI*

i-Com: An Intelligent Image Process-  
ing System

Yeong-jun Park  
*Busan, South Korea*

Comparison of Learning Algorithms  
for Autonomous Robots

Felix Schmaeschke  
*Leipzig, Germany*

Artificial Neural Networks as Applied  
to an Intelligent Alarm System

Bernard Willers and Josef Vrba  
*Republic of South Africa*

Can an Unbeatable AI be Created for  
Connect Four?

Isaac Bowen and Henry Pate  
*Port Orange, FL*

Cost Minimization through Flight  
Scheduling

Sarah Oman, Elizabeth Brown, &  
Thomas Widland  
*New Mexico*

Autonomous Robot: Modeling the Be-  
havior of a Falling Dog

Elizabeth Wood  
*Shaker Heights, OH*

Rox-544 v.2: Walking Like an Insect

Alexis Lussier Desbiens  
*Quebec, Canada*

Compound Rules in an Iterated Pris-  
oner's Dilemma

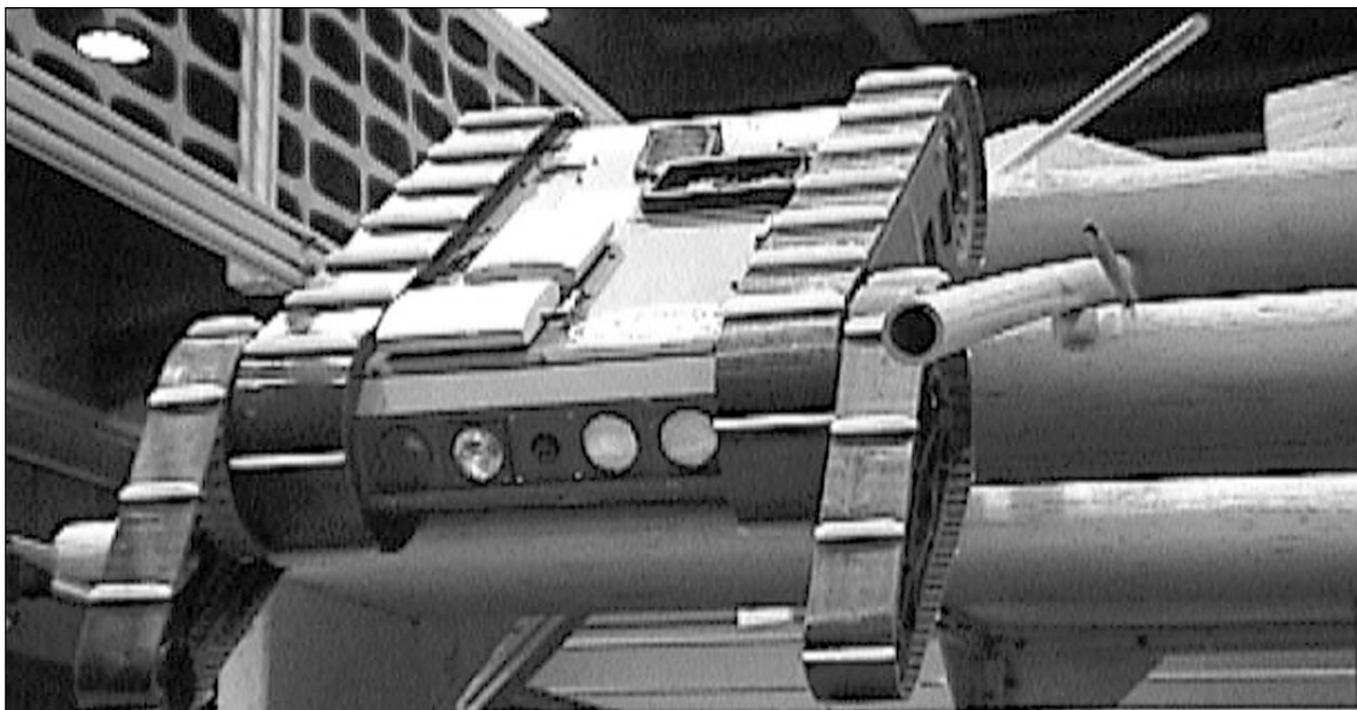
Edward Hinson and Victor Kostyuk  
*Little Rock, AR*

AAAI congratulates all the winners! In  
addition, we would like to recognize  
the judges, who attended the fair in  
San Jose and selected the 12 winning  
projects and 17 winning students

from many remarkable and worthy  
entries. Many thanks to Reid Simmons  
(Chair), Pat Hayes, and Martha Pollack  
for their generous donations of time  
and energy.

## AAAI 2002 Fall Symposium Series

Proposals are being sought for the  
2002 Fall Symposium, site and dates to  
be announced. The venue is expected  
to continue on the east coast. All pro-  
posals will be reviewed by the AAAI  
Symposium Committee (Chair Dan  
Clancy, NASA Ames Research Center;  
Co-chair TBA; Associate Chair David  
Poole, University of British Columbia).  
Symposium proposals should be sub-  
mitted as soon as possible, but no later  
than October 15, 2001. Notifications  
of acceptance or rejection will be sent  
to submitters around October 29,  
2001. A Call for Participation will be  
issued in December. Please see  
[www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fall-sym-  
posia.html](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fall-sym-<br/>posia.html) for further information.



*Cavelos Tackles Robot Rescue at the IJCAI 2001 Conference.*  
*(AI Magazine will feature full coverage of the IJCAI 2001 robot events in an upcoming issue.*  
*Photo courtesy Mark Micire, University of South Florida, Tampa.*

## AAAI Executive Council Nominations

Every year four new councilors are elected to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate eight candidates for councilor in the spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI members will vote in the late spring of 2002.

To submit a candidate's names for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, phone number, and email address to:

Carol Hamilton,  
 Executive Director, AAAI  
 445 Burgess Drive  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025  
 fax: 650-321-4457  
 e-mail: [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org).

Nominators should contact candidates prior to submitting their names to verify that they are willing to serve,

should they be elected. The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2001.

## AAAI 2002 Spring Symposium Series Call for Participation

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence presents the 2002 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday through Wednesday, March 25-27, 2002, at Stanford University. The topics of the nine symposia will be:

- Acquiring (and Using) Linguistic (and World) Knowledge for Information Access
- Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Entertainment
- Collaborative Learning Agents
- Information Refinement and Revision for Decision Making: Modeling for Diagnostics, Prognostics, and Prediction
- Intelligent Distributed and Embedded Systems
- Logic-Based Program Synthesis: State of the Art and Future Trends
- Mining Answers from Texts and Knowledge Bases
- Safe Learning Agents
- Sketch Understanding

Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. Working notes will be prepared and distributed to participants in each symposium. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Tuesday, March 26, and an informal reception will be held on Monday, March 25. In addition to invited participants, a limited number of other interested parties will be able to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration information will be available by December 15, 2001. Please contact AAAI at [sss@aaai.org](mailto:sss@aaai.org) or visit our web site at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/spring-symposia.html](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/spring-symposia.html).

### Submission Information

Submissions for the symposia are due on October 5, 2001. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 9, 2001. Material to be included in the working notes of the symposium must be received by January 21, 2002. The complete Call for Participation is available at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2002/ss-02.html](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2002/ss-02.html).

## Independent Auditor's Report

The Board of Directors  
American Association for Artificial Intelligence  
Menlo Park, California

I have audited the statement of financial position of American Association for Artificial Intelligence as of December 31, 2000 and the related statements of activities, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on the audits.

I conducted the audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that the audits provide a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of American Association for Artificial Intelligence as of December 31, 2000 and the results of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.



Robert H. Burnham  
April 18, 2001

## Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2000

### Assets

#### Current Assets:

Cash & Equivalents	\$ 604,821
Investments - Stated at Fair Market Value (Note 1A & 3)	11,097,629
Accounts Receivable - Trade	5,534
Inventory	239,841
Prepaid Expenses & Advances	31,686
Prepaid Expenses - Future Events	<u>86,289</u>

*Total Current Assets* 12,065,800

Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, Net (Note 1-C) 60,070

Deposits 5,279

\$ 12,131,149

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 119,389
Unearned Membership Fees (Note 4)	<u>210,722</u>

*Total Current Liabilities* 330,111

Net Assets - Unrestricted 11,801,038

\$ 12,131,149

## Notes to Financial Statements, December 31, 2000

### Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**A. Method of Accounting**  
The financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

Effective for 1996 the Association has changed its method of accounting for investments from "original cost" to "fair market value" as required by the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 124.

The cumulative effect of the change in accounting principle from prior years was shown as an extraordinary item on the statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 1996. Since investments are stated at fair

market value realized and unrealized gains and losses are combined on the statement of activities where in years prior to 1996 only realized gains and losses were shown.

**B. Inventory**  
Magazine, proceedings, conference books and publications in process inventory is valued at the lower of cost or market value as of December 31, 2000.

**C. Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment:**  
Furniture, fixtures and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over estimated useful lives of five to ten years. Furniture, fixtures and equipment consist of the following at December 31, 2000.

Cost	\$ 201,970
Accumulated depreciation	(141,900)
Net	<u>\$ 60,070</u>

**D. Income Taxes:**

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence is exempt from income taxes on its earnings from investments and its exempt function operations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701(d) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Federal and California taxes were paid during 2000 on earnings from sales of mailing lists and advertising.

**Note 2:  
Operations**

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) was formed in 1979 as a scientific society, to encourage the basic knowledge of what constitutes intelligent thought and behavior and how it can be exhibited in computers.

This is accomplished by the *AI Magazine*, the publications of the AAAI Press, the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), the Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI), the International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, the Mobile Robot Competition, the Symposium Series, and the AAAI Workshop Program.

In addition, AAAI has an extensive program for student scholarships, women and minority grants, and sponsorship of independent workshops and conferences.

Finally, AAAI's world wide web site serves as a central resource for individuals involved in AI research.

**Note 3:  
Investments at  
December 31, 2000**

Investments are stated at fair market value since it is readily determinable and the investments are not necessarily being held to any maturity. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reported in the statement of activities.

Investment activity for 2000 is as follows:

**Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets  
for the Year Ended December 31, 2000****Changes in Net Assets: Gross Profit (Loss), By Activity:**

<i>AI Magazine</i> Revenue (Note 4)	\$ 13,810	
<i>AI Magazine</i> Expenses	( 175,808 )	\$ ( 161,998 )
Memberships Revenue (Note 4)	285,179	
Memberships Expenses	( 128,061 )	157,118
AAAI Press Revenue	175,424	
AAAI Press Cost of Sales	( 174,381 )	1,043
Spring Symposium 2000 Revenue	58,586	
Symposium Expenses	( 57,142 )	1,444
Fall Symposium 2000 Revenue	37,972	
Symposium Expenses	( 51,644 )	( 13,672 )
Conference Service Fees	56,131	
Conference Service Salaries	( 56,131 )	- 0 -
AAAI 2000 Revenue	348,054	
AAAI 2000 Expenses	( 463,956 )	( 115,902 )
2000 Exhibits Revenue	110,686	
Exhibits Expenses	( 133,119 )	( 22,433 )
Prior Year Events Expenses		( 8,637 )
KDD Sponsor		8,348
Interest & Dividend Income (investments & cash equivalents)		306,490
Realized & Unrealized Gains (loss) on investments (Note 1A)		( 414,581 )
Investment Management Fees		( 155,840 )
Grants & Scholarships Expended		( 362,733 )
Miscellaneous		1,645
Bad Debts		( 10,949 )
Inventory Adjustments		( 2,628 )
Gross Profit (Loss), Combined		( 793,285 )
Operating Expenses		( 486,174 )
Net (Decrease) in Net Assets		(1,279,459)
Net Assets — January 1, 2000		<u>13,080,497</u>
Net Assets — December 31, 2000		<u>\$ 11,801,038</u>

Investments - Beginning of year (At fair market value)	\$ 12,186,610
Unrealized & Realized gains (Loss)	( 414,581 )
Interest & Dividends (Investments only)	<u>278,753</u>
Total Return On Investments	12,050,782
Purchases of Investments	6,760,874
Sales of Investments	( 7,435,274 )
Interest & Dividends deposited to Cash & Equivalents	( 278,753 )
Investments – End of Year	<u>\$11,097,629</u>

Investments consist of the following at 12-31-2000:

U.S. Treasury / Agency Notes & Guaranteed Mortgages	\$ 1,817,570
Corporate Fixed Income	1,760,856
Common/Preferred Stocks	<u>7,519,203</u>
Total Investments – Unrestricted	<u>\$11,097,629</u>

## Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

### Cash Flows From Operating Activities:

Net (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ ( 1,279,459 )
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Flows From Operations:	
Depreciation Expense	20,140
Net Decrease in Accounts Receivable	11,663
Net Increase in Inventory	( 70,468 )
Net Increase in Prepaid Expenses	( 48,275 )
Net Increase in Accounts Payable	86,164
Net Decrease in Unearned Membership Fees	( 17,192 )
Net Unrealized and Realized Loss on Investments	<u>414,581</u>
 Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	 ( <u>882,846</u> )
 <b>Cash Flow From Investing Activities:</b>	
Purchase of Furnishings & Equipment, Net	( 14,673 )
Sale of Investments, Net of Purchases of Investments	<u>674,400</u>
Net Cash Flow From Investing Activities	<u>659,727</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash & Equivalents	( 233,119 )
Cash & Equivalents — January 1, 2000	<u>827,940</u>
Cash & Equivalents — December 31, 2000	<u>\$ 604,821</u>

### Note 4: Memberships

Annual membership in the American Association for Artificial Intelligence is \$50 for individuals, \$20 for student members, and \$75 for library subscriptions. Twenty five dollars is added to the above for other than U.S. and Canadian members. Three, five year, and lifetime memberships are also available. All Revenue from memberships is included in the AI Memberships gross profit center. Revenues from membership fees are earned ratably over the respective membership period. Lifetime membership fees are recognized as income over ten years.

### Note 5: Pension Benefits

Prior to 1998 American Association for Artificial Intelligence sponsored a pension plan under Section 403 (B) of the Internal Revenue Code allowing employee contributions to their own in-

dividual accounts. Beginning in 1998 the plan expanded benefits to include company contributions to their individual accounts of five percent of their salaries for regular, full-time employees who have worked a minimum of three years at AAAI. In addition, AAAI will match employees' contributions up to five percent of their salaries for regular, full-time employees who have worked a minimum of five years at AAAI.

### Correction

The names of the Star Wars droids C-3PO and R2-D2 were misspelled in the Summer issue article "Human-Level AI's Killer Application: Interactive Computer Games." The magazine apologizes for this error and thanks C. Todd Sutherland for bringing it to our attention.

## New AAAI Press Titles for Fall

Three new titles are being released by AAAI Press/The MIT Press this fall. They are:

- *Smart Machines in Education* (edited by Ken Forbus and Paul Feltovich)
- *Dynamics of Organizations: Computational Modeling and Organizational Theories* (edited by Alessandro Lomi and Erik Larsen)
- *Biorobotics: Methods and Applications* (edited by Barbara Webb and Thomas Consi).

In addition, the proceedings from the 2001 Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference are now also available. To order, call 650-328-3123, or visit the AAAI Press website at [www.aaai.org/Press/](http://www.aaai.org/Press/).

## Member News

AAAI Fellow Austin Tate reports that the Artificial Intelligence Applications Institute (AIAI) and the Institute for Representation and Reasoning (IRR) were recently combined to form the Centre for Intelligent Systems and their Applications (CISA). AIAI will retain its identity within the new Centre, continuing with its mission of technology transfer and applied research. CISA is to be engaged in research and development involving knowledge representation and reasoning, planning, acting, cooperation, adaptive systems, and intelligent agents.

## AAAI Website News

Following a year-long effort, we are please to report that by the time this issue is published, all articles from *AI Magazine*, from volume 1 number 1 to the present issue (some 22 years worth!) will be available for members at the AAAI website. In addition, for those who would like the convenience of all those issues in a readily searchable form right on their desktop, a CD-ROM of volumes 1–21 will be available for purchase this winter.

On the AI Topics site, the new "AI in the News" has proven to be quite popular. If you haven't seen this site lately, you can access it from from the "AI Topics" button at [www.aaai.org](http://www.aaai.org).