

AAAI News

*Spring News from the
American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

Save the Date! AAAI-06, Celebrating AI's Fiftieth Anniversary

The Twenty-First National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-06) and the Eighteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-06) will be held in Boston, Massachusetts at the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center, July 16–20, 2006. AAAI-06 will mark the launch of activities celebrating AI's fiftieth anniversary. Please join us for this landmark event!

Join Us for the First Annual Artificial Intelligence for Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-05)

AAAI is pleased to announce the launch of the First Annual Artificial Intelligence for Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference. The conference will be held June 1–3, 2005 at the Marriott Hotel in Marina del Rey, California.

AIIDE is intended to be the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. The conference is targeted at both the research and commercial communities, promoting AI research and practice in the context of interactive digital entertainment systems with an emphasis on commercial computer and video games.

Registration information, as well as full details about the conference program can be found at the AIIDE-05 web site: www.aaai.org/Conferences/AIIDE/2005/aiide05.html.

Celebrate AAAI's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary at AAAI-05 / IAAI-05!

Registration information for the Twentieth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-05) and the Seventeenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-05) is available at the www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2005/aaai05.html. Please note that the deadline for early registrations is May 13, 2005.

The conferences will be held July 9–13 at the Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. AAAI-05 will feature thirteen half-day and two full-day tutorials, thirteen workshops, the AAAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, the Intelligent Systems Demonstration program, Student Abstract Posters, and the AAAI/ SIGART Doctoral Consortium. Please visit the AAAI-05 web site periodically for up-to-date information. We hope you will join us in Pittsburgh!

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh holds a unique place on the map and in the hearts of the people who know it. Three rivers come together here, creating an urban setting like no other. When you visit Pittsburgh, you arrive in a city that lays claim to an incomparable renaissance, a vibrant cultural scene, ethnic charm, friendly inhabitants, exquisite architecture and enticing recreation opportunities. There's something for everyone and unique experiences you won't find anywhere else.

The best of Pittsburgh includes the Carnegie Museum, Andy Warhol Museum, the professional sports teams (Steelers, Pirates, and Penguins), Heinz Hall, and the Pittsburgh Zoo.

Pittsburgh is also home to two major AI centers at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh.

Travel in any direction and you will find great shopping to suit every budget and taste. Add to that one of the best perks about shopping in Pittsburgh—no tax on clothing, shoes, groceries, or specialty foods in the state. For more information on Pittsburgh, please visit www.visit-pittsburgh.com.

Collocated Event

The Fourth North American School on Agents and Multi-Agent Systems will collocate with AAAI-05. The event will be held in Pittsburgh from July 7 to 10. For more information about this event, consult www-2.cs.cmu.edu/~pmodi/ASAMAS.html.

New! First Annual AAAI General Game Playing Competition

AAAI is pleased to announce the First Annual Game Playing Competition, to be held in conjunction with AAAI-05 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from July 9 to 13. This competition is designed to test the abilities of general game playing systems by comparing their performance on a variety of games. The AAAI competition will consist of two phases: a qualification round and a runoff competition. A \$10,000 prize will be awarded to the winning entrant. The competition is open to all computer systems, except those generated by affiliates of Stanford University. (Sorry, no human players allowed!) For a complete call for participation, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2005/aaai05.html. In addition, the competition website at games.stanford.edu contains further details, including the description of the underlying framework, the game description language, and the programmatic interfaces necessary to play the games.

Fourteenth Annual AAAI Robot Competition and Exhibition

AAAI invites your participation in the Fourteenth Annual AAAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, which brings together teams from universities, colleges, and research

laboratories to compete and demonstrate cutting edge, state of the art research in robotics and artificial intelligence. This year's program, to be held in conjunction with AAAI-05 in Pittsburgh, will include the Robot Challenge, the Open Interaction Event, the Scavenger Hunt, the Robot Exhibition, and the Mobile Robot Workshop. More detailed information about each event, as well as how to register, is available at palantir.swarthmore.edu/aaai05/.

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 for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the conference program or letters of recommendation from their faculty advisor; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 15, 2005. 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 scholarships05@aaai.org, or 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. (650) 328-3123.

The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2005, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to student scholars for the volunteer positions. Local stu-

dents or students not requiring travel assistance can apply for the volunteer program if openings are available. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at volunteer05@aaai.org. The deadline for volunteer applications is April 15, 2005.

AAAI Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mail for your AAAI Ballot, which will be mailed to all regular AAAI members in late April. The membership will vote for a president-elect and four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. Ballots will be due back at the AAAI office no later than June 1. The Annual Business meeting for AAAI will be held this summer during AAAI-05 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The exact day and time will be announced on the ballot, in the summer issue of the magazine, and in the conference program.

2005 Fall Symposium Series

The 2005 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 4–6, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Washington, DC. The symposium series will be preceded on Thursday, November 3 by a one-day AI funding seminar, which will be open to all registered attendees of the Fall Symposium Series. The titles of the eight symposia are as follows:

- Agents and the Semantic Web (FS-01). *Cochairs:* G Terry Payne (trp@ecs.soton.ac.uk) and Valentina Tamma (V.A.M.Tamma@csc.liv.ac.uk)
- Caring Machines: AI in Eldercare (FS-02). *Chair:* G Timothy Bickmore (bickmore@bu.edu)
- Coevolutionary and Coadaptive Systems (FS-03). *Cochairs:* G Mitchell A. Potter (mpotter@aic.nrl.navy.mil) and R. Paul Wiegand (wiegand@aic.nrl.navy.mil)
- Explanation-Aware Computing (FS-04). *Chair:* G Thomas Roth-Berghofer (trb@dfki.uni-kl.de), Stefan

Schulz (schulz@sce.carleton.ca), and Andrea Woody (awoody@u.washington.edu)

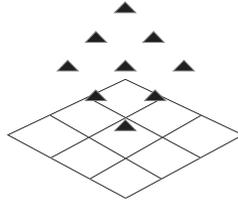
- From Reactive to Anticipatory Cognitive Embodied Systems (FS-05). *Cochairs:* G Cristiano Castelfranchi (c.castelfranchi@istc.cnr.it), Christian Balkenius (Christian.Balkenius@lucs.lu.se), Martin Butz (butz@illgal.ge.uiuc.edu), and Andrew Ortony (ortony@northwestern.edu)
- Machine Ethics (FS-06). *Cochairs:* G Michael Anderson (anderson@hartford.edu), Susan Leigh Anderson (susan.anderson@uconn.edu), and Chris Armen (chris.armen@trin-coll.edu)
- Mixed-Initiative Problem-Solving Assistants (FS-07). *Cochairs:* G David W. Aha (david.aha@nrl.navy.mil) and L. Karl Branting (branting@bellsouth.net)
- Roles, An Interdisciplinary Perspective (FS-08). *Cochairs:* Guido Boella (guido@di.unito.it), James Odell (mailbox@jamesodell.com), Leendert van der Torre (torre@cw.nl), and Harko Verhagen (verhagen@dsv.su.se)

The deadline for submissions is May 2, 2005. The Call for Participation has been posted on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/2005/fss-05.html.

2006 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI is currently accepting proposals for the 2006 Spring Symposium Series, to be held at Stanford University, California, March 27–29, 2006.

Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for the 2006 Spring Symposium Series. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Committee, (Chair: Holly Yanco, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Assistant Chair: Alan Schultz, Naval Research Lab). Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than April 22, 2005. The Call for Proposals is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2006/sssproposals-06.html.



Call for Proposals

2005 AAAI Spring Symposium Series

March 21-23, 2005 ■ Stanford, California

Sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence

AAAI invites proposals for the 2005 Spring Symposium Series, to be held March 21-23, 2005 at Stanford University, California.

The Spring Symposium Series is an annual set of meetings run in parallel at a common site. It is designed to bring colleagues together in an intimate forum while at the same time providing a significant gathering point for the AI community. The two and one half day format of the series allows participants to devote considerably more time to feedback and discussion than typical one-day workshops. It is an ideal venue for bringing together new communities in emerging fields.

The symposia are intended to encourage presentation of speculative work and work in progress, as well as completed work. Ample time should be scheduled for discussion. Novel programming, including the use of target problems, open-format panels, working groups, or breakout sessions, is encouraged. Working notes will be prepared, and distributed to the participants. At the discretion of the individual symposium chairs, these working notes may also be made available as AAAI Technical Reports following the meeting. Most participants of the symposia will be selected on the basis of statements of interest or abstracts submitted to the symposia chairs; some open registration will be allowed. All symposia are limited in size, and participants will be expected to attend a single symposium.

Proposals for symposia should be between two and five pages in length, and should contain:

- A title for the symposium.
- A description of the symposium, identifying specific areas of interest, and, optionally, general symposium format.
- The names and addresses (physical and electronic) of the organizing committee: preferably three or more people at different sites, all of whom have agreed to serve on the committee.
- A list of potential participants that have been contacted and that have expressed interest in participating. A common way of gathering potential participants is to send email messages to email lists related to the topic(s) of the symposium. Note that potential participants need not commit to participating, only state that they are interested.

Ideally, the entire organizing committee should collaborate in producing the proposal. If possible, a draft proposal should be sent out to a few of the potential participants and their comments solicited.

Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for the 2005 Spring Symposium Series. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Committee, (*Chair*: Holly Yanco, University of Massachusetts Lowell; *Assistant Chair*: Alan Schultz, Naval Research Lab; and *Associate Chair*: Marie desJardins, University of Maryland Baltimore County). The criteria for acceptance of proposals include:

Perceived interest to the AAAI community. Although AAAI encourages symposia that cross disciplinary boundaries, a symposium must be of interest to some subcommunity of the AAAI membership. Symposia that are of interest to a broad range of AAAI members are also preferred.

Appropriate number of potential participants. Although the series supports a range of symposium sizes, the target size is around 40-60 participants.

Lack of a long-term ongoing series of activities on the topic. The Spring Symposium Series is intended to nurture emerging communities and topics, so topics that already have yearly conferences or workshops are inappropriate.

An appropriate organizing committee. The organizing committee should have (1) good technical knowledge of the topic, (2) good organizational skills, and (3) connections to the various communities from which they intend to draw participants. Committees for cross-disciplinary symposia must adequately represent all the disciplines to be covered by the symposium.

Accepted proposals will be distributed as widely as possible over the subfields of AI, and balanced between theoretical and applied topics. Symposia bridging theory and practice and those combining AI and related fields are particularly solicited.

Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than April 23, 2004. Proposals that are submitted significantly before this deadline can be in draft form. Comments on how to improve and complete the proposal will be returned to the submitter in time for revisions to be made before the deadline. Notifications of acceptance or rejection will be sent to submitters around May 7, 2004. The submitters of accepted proposals will become the chairs of the symposia, unless alternative arrangements are made. The symposium organizing committees will be responsible for:

- Producing, in conjunction with the general chair, a Call for Participation and Registration Brochure for the symposium, which will be distributed to the AAAI membership
- Additional publicity for the symposium, especially to potential audiences from outside the AAAI community
- Reviewing requests to participate in the symposium and determining symposium participants
- Preparing working notes for the symposium
- Scheduling the activities of the symposium
- Preparing a short review of the symposium, to be printed in *AI Magazine*

AAAI will provide logistical support, will take care of all local arrangements, and will arrange for reproducing and distributing the working notes. Please submit (preferably by electronic mail) your symposium proposals, and inquiries concerning symposia, to:

Holly Yanco
Computer Science Department, University of Massachusetts
Lowell, Olsen Hall, 1 University Avenue, Lowell, MA 01854
Voice: 978-934-3642 Fax: 978-934-3551
E-mail: holly@cs.uml.edu

AAAI E-mail Addresses

AAAI modified its email addresses in an effort to reduce the amount of spam that we receive. We added 05 to all email addresses, as follows:

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|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| ■ aai05 | ■ aimagazine05 | ■ aitopics05 |
| ■ fss05 | ■ info05 | ■ membership05 |
| ■ orders05 | ■ press05 | ■ iaai05 |
| ■ sss05 | ■ workshops05 | ■ scholarships05 |
| ■ volunteer05 | ■ awards05 | ■ fellows05 |

AAAI can also be reached by completing the contact form, accessible from www.aaai.org.

Please submit your symposium proposals by electronic mail (no postal submissions), and inquiries concerning symposia, to Alan C. Schultz Head, Intelligent Systems Section, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington DC, (202) 767-2684, (202) 767-3172 (fax), schultz@aic.nrl.navy.mil

Artificial Intelligence Journal Online Access

AAAI is delighted to announce the continuation of its cooperative effort with *AI Journal*, giving unlimited access to the online version of the *Artificial Intelligence Journal* to all regular AAAI members. AAAI regular members can view and browse tables of contents, view articles published in recent issues of *AI Journal*, and utilize the current features available through Elsevier's electronic journal service. They may also view, print and/or download excerpts of reasonable quantity, provided that the use of such excerpts is personal and does not amount to or result in commercial distribution.

To activate your access to the journal *Artificial Intelligence*, you can enter your AAAI membership number at <https://cs.sciencedirect.com/activate/artint/members>. If you have forgotten your membership number or need instructions, please write to us at membership05@aaai.org. If you require customer service from *AI Journal*, please see <http://www.info.sciencedirect.com/contacts/index.shtml> for a list of help desk contact information.

AAAI Sponsored Journal Program Expanded

Did you know that you are eligible to receive a discount on a selection of journals, which AAAI features in its Sponsored Journal program? The list of journals has expanded to seventeen titles, which means these discounts can add up to a significant benefit for AAAI members. For more information about the Sponsored Journal Program, please see www.aaai.org/Publications/Journals/sponsored-journals.html.

AI Alert Newsletter

In response to your feedback, the AI Alert is now published in two formats — one with full-text descriptions of the articles and one with URLs only. To receive this semimonthly listing of articles featuring AI, join our membership listserver by sending a message to majordomo@aaai.org with the following text in the BODY of the message: subscribe aaai-members. You will also receive periodic announcements about upcoming AAAI events and deadlines. Be sure to visit the AI Topics web site at www.aaai.org/AITopics/aitopics.html.

AAAI Member News

Milt Bryce, 79, the father of systems methodologies, died January 3, 2005 after a long illness. Bryce was a pioneer in the systems and computer field since 1954 and was one of the first fifty programmers in the United

States working on the Univac I, where he wrote several engineering applications and developed the first computerized estimating system for plant construction. He also designed and implemented the labor work sampling system for construction. He joined Univac in 1959 where he made several contributions in the areas of software design and hardware planning, primarily in the areas of operating systems and computer equipment. He specified the industry's first memory keypunch. His group was also responsible for specifying the Mod-V Tabulator, which was marketed as the 1004 and 1005 small computers. In 1965 he joined the Quaker Oats Company in Chicago, IL as MIS Director where he established the industry's first data management organization.

In 1971 Mr. Bryce started his own company, M. Bryce & Associates (MBA), in Cincinnati, Ohio, and developed the first systems design methodology, "PRIDE," which is used by companies throughout the world. He is also responsible for the concept of "information resource management" and the "data dictionary." In 1982 he was recognized in Tokyo for improving the productivity of systems development in Japan. He was a charter member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the American Association for Artificial Intelligence.

Milind Tambe of the University of Southern California is the recipient of 2005 ACM/SIGART Autonomous Agents Research Award. Tambe has made significant and sustained contributions to the research on autonomous agents and multiagent systems. In particular, Tambe made seminal contributions to the theory, applications, and software infrastructure in the area of teamwork, which has become a flourishing research area in multiagent systems. In addition to his substantial research contributions, Tambe has served the autonomous agents research community in a variety of ways, most recently as the General cochair of the Third International Conference on Autonomous Agents and MultiAgent Systems.