

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence will be held at 12:45 PM, Monday, July 14, 2008 in the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois.

AAAI-08 / IAAI-08

We hope you are planning to join us for AAAI-08 and IAAI-08 in Chicago, Illinois, July 13–17, 2008. The AAAI-08 program will feature Eric Horvitz's AAAI presidential address, as well as five outstanding invited talks. The invited speakers include Alexei A. Efros (Carnegie Mellon University) whose talk is titled From Images to Scenes: Using Lots of Data to Infer Geometric, Photometric and Semantic Scene Properties from a Single Image; David Hausler (University of California, Santa Cruz) who will present a talk called 100 Million Years of Evolutionary History of the Human Genome; Lillian Lee (Cornell University), speaking about Sense and Sensibility: Sentiment Analysis, Opinion Mining, and the Computational Treatment of Subjective Language; Mark Newman (University of Michigan), with a presentation titled Making Sense of Complex Networks; and Stuart Russell (University of California, Berkeley) speaking about What Is To Be Done?

IAAI-08 invited speakers include Kenneth M. Ford (Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, IHMC), who will present the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Award Lecture on Toward Cognitive Prostheses; Seth Copen Goldstein (Carnegie Mellon University), whose talk is titled Realizing Claytronics: A Challenge for AI; and Chris Urmson (Carnegie Mellon University), speaking about Boss, the Urban Challenge, and the Promise of Autonomous Driving.

The technical program will include 273 oral presentations in the main technical track, special tracks on AI and the web, integrated intelligence, and physically grounded AI, senior member and nectar tracks, and the IAAI-08 program.

Forty-seven of the AAAI-08 techni-

cal papers will be highlighted as exceptional papers during the conference-wide poster session on Wednesday, July 16, and another 23 short papers will be presented as posters.

The very popular AI video competition and awards will continue for its second year with all the Hollywood glitz and glamour that organizers David Aha and Sebastian Thrun can muster. In addition, the inaugural AI teaching forum will include a colloquium, video competition track, a conference-wide panel, and poster presentations.

As always, there is a full schedule of tutorials, workshops, student programs, competitions, and exhibits throughout the week. For more information, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai08.php.

The Fourth Annual Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-08)

Please join us for AIIDE-08, to be held October 22–24, 2008 at Stanford University in Stanford, California. AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. Sponsored by AAAI, 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.

AAAI News

Summer News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

The program will include a research track, industry track, invited speakers, demos, and more. Registration information and other program details will be available on the AIIDE-08 website at www.aaai.org/Conferences/AIIDE/aiide08.php later this summer. Please send inquiries to aiide08@aaai.org or to conference chair Michael Mateas (University of California, Santa Cruz).

Join Us for IJCAI-09 in Pasadena, California!

Please mark your calendars now for the Twenty-First International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-09) and the Twenty-First Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-09)! The conferences will be held July 11–17, at the Pasadena Convention Center in Pasadena, California. AAAI joins IJCAI as a cosponsor of the IJCAI conference when it is held in North America every six years. Accordingly, AAAI will not hold the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence in 2009.

The IJCAI-09 conference committee includes conference chair Hiroaki Kitano (Sony Computer Science Laboratories, Inc. and The Systems Biology Institute, Tokyo, Japan), program chair Craig Boutilier (University of Toronto, Canada), local arrangements chair Richard Doyle (NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory), and IJCAI secretary-treasurer Ramasamy Uthurusamy (GM Research). The IAAI-08 conference chair is Karen Haigh (BBN Technologies).

The calls for papers for both conferences, as well as tutorial proposals,

workshop proposals, award nominations, and other affiliated programs will be available on the IJCAI-09 website in the coming months. Please see www.ijcai-09.org for further information, or write to ijcai09@aaai.org. For more information about IAAI-09, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/IAAI/iaai09.php or write to iaai09@aaai.org.

Save the Date! July 11–15, 2010

AAAI comes to Atlanta, Georgia in 2010! The Twenty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-10) and the Twenty-Second Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-10) will be held in Atlanta at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, July 11–15, 2010. Please mark your calendars, and visit www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai10.php for updates later this year!

Executive Council Nominations

Every two years, the AAAI membership elects an individual to serve a two-year term as President-Elect, followed by two years as President, and, finally, two years as immediate Past President. In addition, 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 one candidate for President-Elect and 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 2009.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; by fax to 650-321-4457; or by email to hamilton@aaai.org. Nomina-

tors 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, 2008.

2008 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The 2008 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 7–9, at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The titles of the seven symposia are:

- Adaptive Agents in Cultural Contexts, Alex Davis, Cochair (Stottler Henke), Jeremy Ludwig (Stottler Henke) aacc08@easychair.org
- AI in Eldercare: New Solutions to Old Problems, Marge Skubic (University of Missouri) skubicm@missouri.edu
- Automated Scientific Discovery, Andrew Shilliday (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Selmer Bringsjord (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) shilla@rpi.edu, selmer@rpi.edu
- Biologically Inspired Cognitive Architectures, Alexei Samsonovich (George Mason University) samsonovich@cox.net
- Education Informatics: Steps Toward the International Internet Classroom, Paul Cohen (USC Information Sciences Institute), Carole Beal (K12@USC, USC Information Sciences Institute), Niall Adams (Imperial College London) cohen@isi.edu
- Multimedia Information Extraction, Mark Maybury (MITRE), Sharon Walter (AFRL) maybury@mitre.org, Sharon. Walter@rl.af.mil
- Naturally Inspired AI, Jacob Beal (MIT CSAIL), Paul Bello (Office of Naval Research), Nick Cassimatis (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Michael Coen (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Patrick Winston (MIT CSAIL) naturalintelligence@csail.mit.edu

Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants each. 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.

Complete registration and hotel information will be available in August at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss08.php. Invited participants must register by September 19, and the final registration deadline is Octo-

ber 17. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Westin is October 14, 2008. The discounted room rate of \$169.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date. Contact information for the Westin will be included in the registration materials.

AAAI 2009 Spring Symposium Series

The 2009 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 23–25, 2009 at Stanford University. The call for participation will be available in August on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss09.php). Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 2, 2008. For more information, please contact the symposium chair, Marjorie Skubic, at skubicm@missouri.edu or AAAI at sss09@aaai.org. The preliminary list of nine symposia is as follows, but please check the Spring Symposium website for updates:

- Agents that Learn from Human Teachers. *Chair:* Andrea Thomaz (Georgia Institute of Technology) (athomaz@cc.gatech.edu)
- Behavior Modeling. *Chair:* Henry Kautz (University of Rochester) (kautz@cs.rochester.edu)
- Benchmarking of Qualitative Spatial and Temporal Reasoning Systems. *Chair:* Stefan Woelfl (University of Freiburg) (woelfl@informatik.uni-freiburg.de)
- Experimental Design for Real World Systems. *Chair:* Kate Tsui (University of Massachusetts Lowell) (ktsui@cs.uml.edu)
- Intelligent Event Processing. *Chair:* Nenad Stojanovic (University of Karlsruhe) (Nenad.Stojanovic@fzi.de)
- Intelligent Narrative Technologies II. *Chair:* David Roberts (Georgia Institute of Technology) (robertsd@cc.gatech.edu)
- Learning by Reading and Learning to Read. *Chair:* Tim Oates (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) (oates@cs.umbc.edu)
- Social Semantic Web. *Chair:* Jie Bao (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) (baojie@cs.rpi.edu)
- Technosocial Predictive Analytics. *Chair:* Antonio Sanfilippo (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) (antonio.sanfilippo@pnl.gov)

ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award

AAAI is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2007 ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award. The award is presented annually to an individual whose career contributions display breadth within computer science, or bridge computer science and other disciplines. This year, Leonidas J. Guibas, Professor of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at Stanford University, is being honored for his pioneering work in computational geometry, with profound applications across an astonishingly broad range of Computer Science disciplines. The award, which is cosponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and AAAI, comes with a cash prize of \$10,000.

Carnegie Mellon University's Robot Hall of Fame Inducts Four Robots

Carnegie Mellon University inducted four robots into the Robot Hall of Fame earlier this spring, and announced the Carnegie Science Center as the new home of the Hall of Fame beginning in spring 2009. The ceremony, featuring actors Anthony Daniels, who played C-3PO in all six Star Wars movies, and Zachary Quinto, who will play Spock in the upcoming *Star Trek* movie, highlighted the contributions and significance of each of the new inductees – the Raibert Hopper, NavLab 5, LEGO Mindstorms and the fictional Lieutenant Commander Data. Honored for their work on these robots were Marc Raibert, president of Boston Dynamics; Lars Nyengaard, director of Innovation and Education Projects for LEGO Education; and Todd Jochem, a Ph.D. graduate of the Robotics Institute and group director of Foster-Miller, Inc.

The Robot Hall of Fame was created in 2003 by Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science to recognize and honor the real and fictional robots that have inspired imaginations and achieved technical excellence.

AAAI Member News

Barbara Grosz Named Dean of Radcliffe Institute

We congratulate Barbara J. Grosz, Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences in Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and past president of AAAI, on her appointment as the dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Grosz has served as interim dean of the Radcliffe Institute since July 1, 2007, and earlier served as Radcliffe's first dean of science from 2001 to 2007.

Grosz has been a member of the Harvard faculty since 1986, first as Gordon McKay Professor of Computer Science and currently (since 2001) as Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences. She is widely known for her contributions to artificial intelligence, especially in the areas of natural-language processing and multi-agent systems. She developed some of the earliest computer dialogue systems, and established the research field of computational modeling of discourse. Her research on models of collaboration has provided the framework for several collaborative multi-agent systems and human-computer interface systems.

A leader in efforts to increase the participation of women in science, Grosz in 2005 chaired Harvard's Task Force on Women in Science and Engineering, which analyzed and recommended ways to build and sustain the pipeline of women pursuing academic careers in science, from undergraduate studies to graduate and postdoctoral work to advancement through faculty ranks.

Grosz is an elected member of the National Academy of Engineering, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), the Association for Computing Machinery, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1993, she became the first woman to serve as president of the AAAI. She serves on the executive committee and is a former trustee of the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence. She received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Cornell University and master's and doctoral degrees in computer science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Judea Pearl Receives Benjamin Franklin Medal in Computer and Cognitive Science

AAAI Fellow Judea Pearl, Professor of Computer Science and Director of the Cognitive Systems Laboratory at the University of California, Los Angeles has been awarded the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Computer and Cognitive Science for creating the first general algorithms for computing and reasoning with uncertain evidence, allowing computers to uncover associations and causal connections hidden within millions of observations. His work has had a profound impact on artificial intelligence and statistics, and on the application of these fields to a wide range of problems in science and engineering.

Pearl was born in 1936 in Tel Aviv, Israel. He earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from the Technion in Haifa, Israel in 1960 and went on to earn a master's degree in physics from Rutgers University in 1965 and his Ph.D. in electrical engineering the same year from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He worked at RCA Research Laboratories in Princeton until 1970 and has been at the University of California, Los Angeles [UCLA] ever since.

Since 1984 Pearl has written three fundamental books in artificial intelligence, including *Heuristics: Intelligent Search Strategies for Computer Problem Solving*, *Probabilistic Reasoning in Intelligent Systems: Networks of Plausible Inference*, and *Causality: Models, Reasoning, and Inference*. Pearl is the president of the Daniel Pearl Foundation. His numerous scientific honors include the Allen Newell Award, the Lakatos Award in the philosophy of science, the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence [IJCAI] Research Excellence Award. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.



Yoav S. Freund



Maria L. Gini



Lydia E. Kavradi



Tuomas Sandholm



Peter van Beek



Toby Walsh



Brian C. Williams



Michael John Wooldridge

Congratulations to the 2008 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 during AAAI-08 in Chicago, Illinois.

Yoav S. Freund

(University of California, San Diego)

For significant contributions to machine learning including the development of practical boosting algorithms.

Maria L. Gini

(University of Minnesota)

For significant contributions to coordination and competition in multi-robot and multi-agent systems, for leadership in the AI community, and for inspiring the next generation.

Lydia E. Kavradi

(Rice University)

For significant contributions to the field of automated motion planning and the development of widely used probabilistic search algorithms.

Tuomas Sandholm

(Carnegie Mellon University)

For significant contributions to the foundations of multiagent systems and computational game theory, pioneering work in combinatorial auctions, multiagent preference elicitation, and automated mechanism design, and principles and large-scale application of electronic marketplaces.

Peter van Beek

(University of Waterloo)

For contributions to temporal reasoning, backtracking search algorithms, and constraint programming.

Toby Walsh

(NICTA and University of New South Wales)

For significant and sustained contributions to automated deduction and constraint programming, and for extraordinary service to the AI community.

Brian C. Williams

(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

For significant contributions to model-based reasoning and autonomous systems, and the innovative application of AI to space exploration.

Michael John Wooldridge

(University of Liverpool)

For significant contributions to logical foundations and complexity analysis of multiagent systems, including formal theories of teamwork and agent-oriented software engineering.