

Congratulations to the 2008 AAAI Award Winners!

Eric Horvitz, AAAI president, and Alan Mackworth, AAAI past president and Awards Committee chair, presented the AAAI Awards in July at AAAI-08 in Chicago.

Classic Paper Award

The 2008 AAAI Classic Paper Award was given to the authors of the most influential paper from the Eighth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1990 in Boston, Massachusetts. The award was presented to Steven Minton, Mark D. Johnston, Andrew B. Phillips, and Philip Laird for "Solving Large-Scale Constraint Satisfaction and Scheduling Problems Using a Heuristic Repair Method." This paper was honored for its seminal contribution to stochastic local search for constraint satisfaction and its broad influence on local search algorithms and applications in artificial intelligence.

In addition, Pattie Maes and Rodney A. Brooks received honorable mention for "Learning to Coordinate Behaviors" and their pioneering work on machine learning applied to the field of robotics, and on advancing the field of behavioral robotics.

Steven Minton is the chairman and CTO of Fetch Technologies, which he cofounded in 1999. Minton graduated from Yale University in 1980 and received his Ph.D. in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University in 1988. He worked as a principal investigator at NASA's Ames Research Center until 1995, and then moved to the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute (ISI), where he was a project leader and a research associate professor. Minton was the founder and first executive editor of the *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (JAIR)*, and an editor of the *Machine Learning Journal*. He currently serves as *JAIR's* managing editor, while directing AI Access Foundation, the nonprofit corporation that runs *JAIR* and is devoted to the electronic dissemination of research results in AI.

Pattie Maes is an associate professor at the MIT Media Laboratory where

she founded and heads the Ambient Intelligence research group. In her recent work she focuses on ways to integrate the world of information more closely into our daily physical lives helping us gain insight and make better decisions. Prior to joining the Media Lab, Maes was a visiting professor and research scientist at the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab. She was chosen by *Newsweek* as one of the 100 Americans most likely to shape the next century; *TIME Digital* selected her as a member of the Cyber-Elite; the World Economic Forum honored her with the title "Global Leader for Tomorrow," and she has been recognized with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Massachusetts Interactive Media Council. She holds bachelor's and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium.

Distinguished Service Award

The 2008 AAAI Distinguished Service Award recognizes one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. The AAAI Awards Committee is pleased to announce that this year's recipient was Ronald J. Brachman of Yahoo! Research. Brachman was honored specifically for his contributions to the field of artificial intelligence through sustained service in numerous leadership roles in industry, government and professional societies, tirelessly instigating, facilitating and promoting successful AI research and development.

Ron Brachman is vice president of Worldwide Research Operations at Yahoo! Research. He also heads Yahoo!'s Academic Relations organization. Be-

tween 2002 and 2005, Brachman served as the director of DARPA's Information Processing Technology Office, and there developed DARPA's Cognitive Systems initiative, which brought hundreds of millions of dollars to the national research community.

Brachman earned his B.S.E.E. degree from Princeton University, and his S.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. He has made numerous important contributions to AI, including developing the cornerstone ideas behind the subfield of description logics. He has been awarded best paper and Classic Paper awards, and has published an important textbook with Hector Levesque, *Knowledge Representation and Reasoning*. He was president of AAAI from 2003 to 2005 and secretary-treasurer of IJCAI from 1993 to 2003.

He is a founding Fellow of AAAI, a Fellow of the ACM, and a Fellow of the IEEE. In January of 2007 he was awarded the IJCAI Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award. For his work at DARPA, Brachman was awarded The Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

For more information about nominations for AAAI 2010 Awards, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org or 650-328-3123.

Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award

The Engelmore award was established in 2003 to honor Robert S. Engelmore's extraordinary service to AAAI, *AI Magazine*, and the AI applications community, and his contributions to applied AI. The annual keynote lecture

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is presented at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference. Topics encompass Englemore's wide interests in AI, and each lecture is linked to a subsequent article published upon approval by *AI Magazine*. The lecturer and, therefore, the author for the magazine article, are chosen jointly by the IAAI Program Committee and the editor of *AI Magazine*.

AAAI congratulates the 2008 recipient of this award, Kenneth M. Ford. Ford was honored for his leadership in AI science and technology through establishing and guiding AI research centers and programs, pioneering contributions to areas such as human-centered computing, and advancement of AI as a scientific endeavor and enabler for society's goals.

Kenneth Ford is the founder and director of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), a statewide not-for-profit research institute of the State University System of Florida. Ford is the author or coauthor of hundreds of scientific papers and six books. His research interests include artificial intelligence, cognitive science, human-centered computing, and entrepreneurship in government and academe. In addition to his work at IHMC, Ford served as associate center director at NASA Ames Research Center. In July 1999, Ford was awarded the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal. That same year, Ford returned to private life and to IHMC. Ford serves on numerous government and corporate boards. In October of 2002, President George Bush nominated Ford to serve on the National Science Board. His nomination was confirmed by the United States Senate in March of 2003. In 2004 *Florida Trend Magazine* selected Ford as one of Florida's 4 most influential citizens working in academe. In September 2005, Ford received the Doctor Honoris Causas from the University of Bordeaux. Also in 2005, Ford was appointed and sworn in as a member of the Air Force Science Advisory Board. In June 2007, Ford was appointed to the NASA Advisory Council.

Outstanding Paper Awards

This year, AAAI's Conference on Artificial Intelligence honored three papers

that exemplify high standards in technical contribution and exposition. Papers were recommended for outstanding status by members of the Program Committee during the blind review process. The winning papers were selected by the program chairs with the help of some members of the Senior Program Committee. Honors went to Liad Wagman and Vincent Conitzer (Duke University) for their paper "Optimal False-Name-Proof Voting Rules with Costly Voting," and Malte Helmert and Gabriele Röger, (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg) for their paper "How Good is Almost Perfect?" An Honorable Mention was presented to Stavros Vassos and Hector J. Levesque (University of Toronto) for their paper "On the Progression of Situation Calculus Basic Action Theories: Resolving a 10-year-old Conjecture."

Program Committee Awards

AAAI-08 program cochairs Dieter Fox and Carla Gomes recognized Senior Program Committee members Richard Korf (University of California, Los Angeles) and Carlos Linares (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid) for their distinguished service on the committee. Korf and Linares used extreme care, thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and diligence in the execution of their duties while serving on the Program Committee.

General Game Playing Competition

The AAAI General Game Playing Competition is designed to test the abilities of general game playing systems by comparing their performance on a variety of previously unseen games. For the second consecutive year, the 2008 winner is CADIAPlayer, programmed by Yngvi Björnsson and Hilmar Finnsón. AAAI gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of Michael Genesereth (Stanford University), which makes this competition possible.

AI Video Competition Winners

The second annual video competition was another great success with 26 videos accepted for presentation at the conference. Accepted videos were

nominated for awards in seven categories, and were presented with iPod Shuffles. Winners received a gold "Shakey" award and an iPod Nano in front of a standing-room-only crowd at the conclusion of the opening reception! Our thanks go to David Aha, Sebastian Thrun, and Michael Littman for all their work in pulling off this exciting event in Chicago.

The winners of the seven awards were as follows:

Digital Analysis of Van Gogh Paintings, by Laurens van der Maaten and Eric Postma (Maastricht University) was judged to be the most innovative video while the best student video award was presented to Daniel Byers, Michael Lapping-Carr, Julie Kumar, Thea Hinkle, Dan Grollman, and Chad Jenkins (Brown University) for *Game-Based Learning*.

BigDog, created by Marc Raibert, Kevin Blankespoor, Gabe Nelson, Rob Playter and the Entire BigDog Team (Boston Dynamics) was the best short video; while *STARMAC: Stanford Tested of Autonomous Rotorcraft for Multi-Agent Control* by Gabriel Hoffmann, Steven Waslander, Haomiao Huang, Vijay Pradeep, Michael Vitus, Jeremy Gillula, and Claire Tomlin (Stanford University) was the best demonstration video.

The best educational video award went to Michael Floyd and Babak Esfandiari (Carleton University) for *Imitating a RoboCup Soccer Player Using Case-Based Reasoning*. David C. Wilson (University of North Carolina, Charlotte) won the narration category for his *CBR Noir*.

Finally, the Best Video award was presented to Sabine Hauert (EPFL) for *Bio-Inspired Flying Robots*.

AAAI gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of the AAAI Video Virtual Archive Project, Google, the Jozef Stefan Institute, Knexus Research Corporation, Microsoft Research, and Yahoo! Research, which made this competition possible. Congratulations to all the winners!

Join us for AIIDE-08!

The Fourth Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment will be held at Stanford

University, October 22–24, 2008. AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between interactive entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic AI researchers. Sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (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. AIIDE-08 will include invited speakers, research and industry presentations, project demonstrations, and product exhibits. While traditionally emphasizing commercial computer and video games, we invite researchers and developers to share their insights and cutting-edge results on all topics at the interface of entertainment and artificial intelligence, including serious games, entertainment robotics, and beyond.

Registration information is now available at the AAAI AIIDE-08 website (www.aaai.org/Conferences/AIIDE/aiide08.php). The late registration deadline is September 30. Registrations will also be accepted onsite at Tresidder Union, 459 Lagunita Drive, on the Stanford Campus. For more information about registration or hotels in the area, please consult the URL above, or write to aiide08@aaai.org.

ICWSM-09 to be Held in the San Francisco Bay Area!

The Third International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area in May 2009. This interdisciplinary conference brings together researchers and industry leaders interested in creating and analyzing social media. Past conferences have included technical papers from areas such as computer science, linguistics, psychology, statistics, sociology, multimedia and semantic web technologies. A full Call for Papers will be available this fall on the AAAI website, and papers will be due in mid-January 2009. As in previous conferences, collections of social-media data will be provided by ICWSM-09 organizers to potential par-



AAAI INTEL ISEF Special Awards

Now in its tenth year, the AAAI Special Awards program at the annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) consists of up to eight 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 (two first prizes) or \$500 (six second prizes) 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*.

This year, the ISEF was held May 11-16, 2008 in Atlanta, Georgia. There were eight winning projects by ten students (one team of three). Seven projects were entered in the category of Computer Science, and one in Electrical Engineering. The 2008 winners are as follows:

First Award of \$1,000

“Application of Real Time Neural Networks for Use with Data Gloves” by Colby Anne Wilkason, Warner Robins High School, Warner Robins, Georgia

“So Many Data—So Few Labels: The Effects of Autoencoders on Unlabeled Data for Pattern Recognition” by Thomas Ben Thompson, Huron High School, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Second Award of \$500

“Modeling Evolution: Exploring Computational Biology and Biomodeling” by Dmitry O. Kislyuk, California High School, San Ramon, California

“Distributed Intelligence” by Dorian Naim Rahamim, Orange High School, Pepper Pike, Ohio

“Content-Based Image Retrieval” by David C. Liu, Lynbrook High School, San Jose, California

“Computer ANTimeation” by Tobias Jacob Williams, Highland Secondary School, Dundas, Ontario, Canada

“The Design and Implementation of Practical Algorithms for Automatic Composite Photographs” by Ken Miura, Mami Inoue, and Mayu Suzuki, Shizuoka-Prefectural Hamamatsu-Kita High School, Sizuoka, Japan

“Intelligent Task Coordination with Multiple Robots (EE)” by Canin Quinn Christell, Christell Home School, Springfield, Missouri

We congratulate all the winners! In addition, we would like to recognize the judges, who attended the fair in Atlanta and selected the 8 winning projects from many remarkable and worthy entries. Many thanks to Reid Simmons, chair (Carnegie Mellon University), for his organizational efforts, and to all the judges, David Kortenkamp, head judge (Metrica TRACLabs), Tucker Balch (Georgia Institute of Technology), Janet Kolodner (Georgia Institute of Technology), and David Musliner (Honeywell Labs) for their generous donations of time and energy.

IAAI-09 / IJCAI-09 Deadlines

Please mark these important deadlines on your calendar and consult the website for special program deadlines:

October 3, 2008:	IJCAI-09 Tutorial proposals due
October 3, 2008:	IJCAI-09 Workshop proposals due
December 1, 2008:	Technical Authors register on the IJCAI and IAAI web sites
January 7, 2009:	IJCAI Electronic abstracts due
January 12, 2009:	IJCAI Electronic papers due
January 20, 2009:	IAAI Electronic papers due
March 6, 2009:	IJCAI-09 Workshop submissions due
March 11, 2009:	IAAI Notification of acceptance or rejection
March 17–20, 2009:	IJCAI Author feedback about initial reviews
March 31, 2009:	IJCAI Notification of acceptance or rejection
March 31, 2009:	IAAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office
April 14, 2009:	IJCAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office

participants, to encourage experimentation on common problems and datasets. For more information, please write to icwsm09@aaai.org.

Join us in Pasadena, California for IJCAI-09 and IAAI-09!

The Twenty-First International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-09), sponsored by the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) and the Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), will be held July 11–17, 2009 in Pasadena, California. The Twenty-First Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-09) will be collocated with IJCAI-09. Located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains and home to the California Institute of Technology and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena is just 15 minutes north of downtown Los Angeles, and is centrally located to all that Southern California has to offer. Pasadena itself offers a surprising combination of sophisticated charm, culture, history, and fun. From mountains caressed by the sun, through gardens radiant with roses, to extraordinary turn-of-the-century architecture, visitors will discover world-class museums, restaurants, shopping, entertain-

ment, and recreational activities. To find out more, please visit www.pasadenacal.com.

The IJCAI-09 Call for Papers is now available at www.ijcai-09.org. Submissions are invited on significant, original, and previously unpublished research on all aspects of artificial intelligence. The theme of IJCAI-09 is “The Interdisciplinary Reach of Artificial Intelligence,” with a focus on the broad impact of artificial intelligence on science, engineering, medicine, social sciences, arts, and humanities. The conference will include panel discussions, invited talks and other events dedicated to this theme.

In addition to the main technical track, IJCAI will include, among others, a tutorial program, workshop program, video competition, mobile robot program, and AI Teaching Forum. For complete information on these programs, including Tutorial and Workshop Call for Proposals, and all IJCAI events, please visit the IJCAI-09 website or write to us at ijcai09@aaai.org.

The IAAI-09 conference, chaired by Karen Haigh (BBN Technologies) and cochaired by Nestor Rychtycky (Ford Motor Company) will use technical papers, invited talks, and panel discussions to explore issues, methods, and lessons learned in the development

and deployment of AI applications; and to promote an interchange of ideas between basic and applied AI. IAAI-09 will consider papers in two tracks: (1) emerging applications or methodologies and (2) deployed application case studies. For more information and a full Call for Papers, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/IAAI/iaai09.php.

IJCAI Conference Committee

Hiroaki Kitano (Sony Computer Laboratories, Inc. and The Systems Biology Institute, Japan) serves as IJCAI-09 Conference Chair. The program chair is Craig Boutilier (University of Toronto). Local arrangements in Pasadena are being handled by AAAI and Local Arrangements Chair Richard Doyle (Jet Propulsion Laboratory). The IJCAI Secretary-Treasurer is Samy Uthrusamy (General Motors Research) and the IJCAI Executive Secretary is Vesna Sabljakovic-Fritz (Vienna University of Technology, Austria). General inquiries and registration correspondence should be directed to Carol Hamilton (AAAI), ijcai09@aaai.org

We hope to see you in Pasadena next summer!

AAAI Fall Symposium Series Registration

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence's 2008 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
- AI in Eldercare: New Solutions to Old Problems
- Automated Scientific Discovery
- Biologically Inspired Cognitive Architectures
- Education Informatics: Steps Toward the International Internet Classroom
- Multimedia Information Extraction
- Naturally Inspired AI

An informal reception will be held on Friday, November 7. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Saturday, November 8.

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 October 17, 2008. For registration information, please contact AAAI at fss08@aaai.org or visit AAAI's web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss08.php. A hotel room block has been reserved at the Westin. The cut-off date for reservations is October 14, 2008. Please call 888-627-7076 for further information, or reserve a room online via the URL previously mentioned.

Spring Symposium Series Call for Participation

AAAI presents the 2009 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday - Wednesday, March 23-25, 2008, at Stanford University. The titles (and contact persons) of the nine symposia are as follows:

- Agents that Learn from Human Teachers. Andrea L. Thomaz (aaais09lfh@easychair.org)
- Benchmarking of Qualitative Spatial and Temporal Reasoning Systems. Bernhard Nebel (aaai09bench-qsr@informatik.uni-freiburg.de)
- Experimental Design for Real-World Systems. Katherine Tsui (aaai-sss-2009@cs.uml.edu)
- Human Behavior Modeling. Tanzeem Choudhury (aaai_ss09_hbm@cs.dartmouth.edu)
- Intelligent Event Processing. Nenad Stojanovic (nstojano@fzi.de)
- Intelligent Narrative Technologies II. Sandy Louchart, Manish Mehta, and David Roberts (int2@cc.gatech.edu)
- Learning by Reading and Learning to Read. Sergei Nirenburg and Tim Oates (sergei, oates@umbc.edu)
- Social Semantic Web: Where Web 2.0 Meets Web 3.0. Jie Bao (dingl@cs.rpi.edu)
- Technosocial Predictive Analytics. Anto-

nio Sanfilippo (antonio.sanfilippo@pnl.gov).

Submissions for the symposia are due on October 3, 2008. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 7, 2008. Material to be included in the working notes of the symposium must be received by January 16, 2009. The complete Call for Participation is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss09.php. Registration information will be available by December 15, 2008. Please contact AAAI at sss09@aaai.org with any questions.

AAAI Member Awarded ACM-Infosys Award

Daphne Koller, an associate professor of computer science at Stanford University, was awarded the first ACM-Infosys Foundation Award in Computing Sciences. Koller was recognized for her innovative approach to artificial intelligence that allows computers to reason and learn about the world from real-world data, and for her work on combining relational logic and probability that allows probabilistic reasoning to be applied to a wide range of applications, including robotics, economics, and biology. This new award, announced in August 2007, and awarded in June at the ACM Awards Banquet in San Francisco, recognizes personal contributions by young scientists and system developers to a contemporary innovation that exemplifies the greatest recent achievements in the computing field. Financial support for the award is provided by an endowment from the Infosys Foundation.

AAAI 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. All elected councilors are expected to attend at least two council meetings per year, and actively participate in

AAAI activities. Nominees must be current members of AAAI. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. (Student and library members are not eligible to submit candidates' names.) 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.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, phone 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 e-mail to 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, 2008.

AAAI Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council Meeting was held March 29, 2008, in Palo Alto, California.

Attending: Eric Horvitz, David Aha, Cynthia Breazeal, Tony Cohn, Maria Gini, Kevin Knight, Alan Mackworth, Sheila McIlraith, Dave Musliner, Michael Pazzani, Martha Pollack, Ted Senator, David E. Smith, Peter Stone, Rich Sutton, Sebastian Thrun, Holly Yanco, David Waltz, Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton

Not attending: Yolanda Gil, Marie desJardins, David Leake

Eric Horvitz opened the meeting at 9:00 AM, and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made and the minutes of the July 2007 meeting, which were circulated prior to the meeting, were formally approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance. Ted Senator, Secretary/Treasurer, reviewed the financial statement for December 2007. The association drew approximately \$475,000 out of

its operating reserve in 2007, which was about 1.5 percent higher than the 5 percent target set by the finance committee. Unfortunately, the budget for 2008 projects a larger draw due to a more expensive conference venue and other normal increases in operational costs. Senator noted that the best ways to reverse this trend are to expand the conference and membership, and to build sponsorship.

Senator suggested that in future years the complimentary student registrations be shown as an expense in the grant cost center, along with student travel grants, and as income in the registration income. Carol Hamilton will review this with the auditor to determine the best way to reflect this activity in the financial statement.

Senator also summarized the current investment activity, noting that all three fund managers had remained true to their investment philosophies, despite the underperformance in the equity portion of the portfolio. Overall, the portfolio had a 2.2 percent return for the year. However, he had further investigated the possibility of switching to another set of funds, and was confident that AAAI could save 50 basis points in fees if this is done. The council suggested that the current overall manager be contacted again to see what he could offer, and if nothing had changed, authorized Senator to move the funds at the appropriate time.

Awards/Fellows/Nominating. Alan Mackworth, chair of these three committees, reviewed the classic paper and distinguished service award criteria, and noted that nominations were currently under review by the committee. The Classic Paper award will draw from the 1990 conference in Boston. The Fellows Selection committee is currently reviewing 33 nominations, which is higher than normal, and is expected to reach a decision in mid-April. The council encouraged the selection committee to consider more international fellows. The Nominating Committee has selected 8 candidates to run for three-year councilor terms. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible members in April.

Conference. Carol Hamilton presented the report on behalf of Yolanda Gil,

Conference Committee chair. She noted that the 2010 AAAI conference is confirmed for July 11–15 in Atlanta, Georgia. The submissions for the 2008 conference were up again from 2007, with 957 papers submitted to the main track and three special tracks: AI and the Web, Integrated Intelligence, and Physically Grounded AI. Another 21 papers were submitted to the short paper track, 78 to the nectar track (up from 48 in 2007), and 15 to the senior member track. Overall, the number of submissions was up by 8 percent. Conference program chairs, Dieter Fox and Carla Gomes, introduced the short paper track this year. These papers will be included in the proceedings and be offered a poster presentation option. Fox and Gomes will continue the practice of offering both oral and poster slots to exceptional full technical papers. The collocated IAAI conference will include four award-winning deployed application papers and 18 emerging application papers. Decisions for AAAI will be mailed at the end of March.

AAAI maintained separate program chairs and committees for each of the paper tracks. Over 750 chairs, senior program committee members, and program committee members participated in the review process. The conference committee is currently reviewing wording for a confidentiality statement, which will be published in conjunction with the next AAAI conference Call for Papers. AAAI maintains a strict confidentiality policy with regard to the content of papers under review and the identity of reviewers.

The invited speakers for 2008 include Alyosha Efros (Carnegie Mellon University), David Haussler (University of California, Santa Cruz), Lillian Lee (Cornell University), Mark Newman (University of Michigan), and Stuart Russell (University of California, Berkeley). The AAAI presidential address by Eric Horvitz will serve as the keynote address. The IAAI conference will include three invited talks, including the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Award Lecture by Ken Ford (IHMC). The council encouraged the conference committee to increase international representation in the invited speaker program in future years.

The tutorials, workshops, competitions (video, poker, general game playing, and trading agents), student programs, IS demos, and exhibitions will continue as in previous years. The Robot program will not include a competition element in 2008, but will take the form of a workshop and accompanying exhibits. The participants are encouraged to submit and exhibit work that demonstrates the workshop's dual themes of "Robotics and Creativity" and "Mobility and Manipulation." Holly Yanco reported that a steering committee has been formed to review the current state of the robot program and make recommendations for its future format. It still holds great attraction for media coverage, but there are several other venues now holding competitions.

Yolanda Gil has added a new program this year, entitled the AI Teaching Forum, which will include a colloquium focused on AI-themed educational resources, a track in the video program, a panel during the main technical program and invited posters presented in the Teaching Forum display area. Marie desJardins, Adele Howe, and Mehran Sahami have coordinated these efforts, along with the colloquium chairs, Zachary Dodds, Haym Hirsh, and Kiri Wagstaff.

Sponsorship for the conference is expected to be on a par with 2007. The gains hoped for in 2008 are not likely due to the current economic conditions. Registration rates will be up by between 3-5 percent, depending on the category. Student rates will continue to be held at a minimal level.

AIIDE. The AIIDE conference has moved to a fall time slot in 2008. The conference will continue to be held at Stanford University this year, but will need to seek a new site in 2009. Submissions are due April 22.

ICWSM. ICWSM, in its second year, is now a AAAI conference. Submissions for the 2008 conference, to be held March 31 – April 2 in Seattle, Washington, were up, with 76 full papers, 23 posters, and 4 demos for review. 20 full papers and 29 posters (some converted from full paper submissions) will be presented at the conference. Preregistration is also up by 15 percent over 2007, and the chairs

have been very successful in securing sponsorships of over \$32,000. Eytan Adar and Matthew Hurst are conference chairs for 2008. Plans for 2009, which is expected to be held in the San Francisco bay area, will commence immediately after the 2008 conference.

Conference Outreach. Peter Stone, chair, reported that AAAI continued its Conference Outreach program in the fall of 2007. Approximately 30 conferences were invited to cooperate with AAAI, or had already made arrangements to do so in 2008. Several conferences now have ongoing cooperation with AAAI, which is automatically renewed each fall. Stone noted that the committee continues to identify potential conferences to participate in this program.

Development. David Musliner, chair, noted that a new campaign had been launched in the fall of 2007, including an attractive, descriptive brochure. The list of people contacted was also expanded. As noted above, efforts to increase commitments were difficult with the downturn in the economy. Several suggestions were made by council members, including the formation of longterm affiliations with large donors, setting up a named endowed scholarship program, or implementing a mechanism for donations on the website. There was some discussion about hiring a professional fundraiser. To avoid a loss of continuity in this program, it was recommended that the president-elect serve as the ongoing chair for this committee, with the appointment of annual chair serving an eighteen-month term commencing in January of the year prior to the targeted year of fundraising.

Membership. Holly Yanco, chair, reported that membership committee has been discussing several options to increase memberships, including referral bonuses, discounts for international members, and membership gift options. The committee will be fine-tuning at least one of these options, and will launch a campaign in the fall of 2008. Current membership levels have remained fairly constant since last year, but a large increase in membership is targeted. Eric Horvitz re-

ported that the first AAAI member event, held in February in Palo Alto, was a great outreach success, attracting a mix of 89 current and lapsed members, and a few new members. The program, featuring talks by Sebastian Thrun and Red Whittaker on the "Autonomous Robots Coming of Age: Directions and Futures," was preceded by a lively reception. At least one additional thematic event is planned for an eastern city in the fall of 2008, and it is hoped that these events will eventually be hosted locally by members to increase awareness of and membership in AAAI.

Publications. Reporting for David Leake, Publications Committee chair and editor-in-chief of *AI Magazine*, Mike Hamilton noted that the summer issue of the magazine will be based on the "What Went Wrong, and Why?" Symposium held in 2006, and will be coedited by Daniel Shapiro and Mehmet Goker. AAAI has installed new publications management software for *AI Magazine*, which assists with the entire process from submissions through archiving. This system, managed by the Public Knowledge Project at Simon Fraser University Library, is in use by over 1,200 journals. Although it has added some overhead to the process, it offers many additional features for readers, including enhanced *AI Magazine* searches, the ability to e-mail notifications to colleagues or send e-mail to the author, and extensive searches of dozens of different databases without ever leaving the *AI Magazine* site. Tony Cohn, editor-in-chief of AAAI Press, reported that the AAAI Press had added 6 new fall symposia to the technical report series, as well as publishing the ICWSM-08 Proceedings. Several additional proceedings will be published in 2008, including AAAI-08/IAAI-08, ICAPS-08, KR-08, ICCCD-08, and AI-IDE-08. Two new book projects are under consideration. The 2007 issues of the *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research* are all in print. AAAI and *JAIR* are currently discussing how to proceed with DOIs for *JAIR*.

Symposium. Holly Yanco, associate chair, reported that the Symposium Committee would like to propose Chad Jenkins (Brown University) for

symposium cochair. This proposal was approved by the council. Alan Schultz will be stepping down as chair at the end of 2008, and Marjorie Skubic will assume that role for 2009. The attendance at the Fall Symposium in Arlington, Virginia was up by 60 percent over the previous year, with 250 attendees for 7 symposia. Registration for the 2008 spring symposium was slightly down from 2007, partly due to the fact that it was a holiday week for many families. Seven symposia are planned for the 2008 fall event, which will be held in the same location in Arlington. The AI funding seminar will not be held in 2008, as it has adopted a biennial schedule.

Ongoing Business

CRA Report. Marie desJardins, AAAI liaison to CRA, reported that CRA has a new subcommittee, CRA-E, that is focusing on education. Their focus is future-looking/interdisciplinary computing education for college-level students and above. ACM also has an Education Policy committee. Martha Pollack reported at the recent CRA Board meeting on P and T processes for interdisciplinary faculty and faculty recruiting. The committee agreed that it would be useful to look into ways to address the issues that arise from schools having very different timetables for hiring new faculty. The latest Taulbee Survey shows that Ph.D. production has doubled over the last few years. However, most go into industry with only 11 percent pursuing tenure-track positions. Undergraduate enrollment remains about the same, with only about 10 percent female students. desJardins also noted that at the recent CRA leadership summit, Jill Ross gave a presentation on the progress of the image of computing task force, which is focused on outreach to younger teens. The committee is working to better inform students about computer science, and to address misperceptions about it. CRA-W continues to sponsor and/or support a number of programs each year that are of interest to women (and men), including the Grad Cohort program, career mentoring workshops, the Women in Machine Learning workshop, the Cohort of Associate



New AAAI Councilors (left to right) Tuomas Sandholm, Gal Kaminka, Amy Greenwald, and Claire Cardie with AAAI President Eric Horvitz (center).

Professors Project, to name only a few. The group also supports an extensive mailing list and website. Dave Waltz noted that he will give an update on the deliberations of the Computing Community Consortium at the summer meeting. The mission of the CCC, which was formed in cooperation with NSF, is to foster exciting new research visions in the computing community.

AI Magazine Poster Project. Mike Hamilton reported that the goal of the *AI Magazine* poster project is to spur interest in AI, to help educate viewers about the field, and to attract students and others to learn more through AAAI web resources, such as AI Topics. The content for the poster was developed during the past year through discussions with the AAAI Executive Council, *AI Magazine* Editorial Board, and the AAAI Publications Committee. The poster depicts a city scene, highlighting a variety of AI applications in a close-up of several rooms. Although the poster is highly visual, it will also convey some key AI research questions as text, and will also allude to AI's history through the inclusion of a few key figures on a city bus. A full AI timeline will be provided at an accompanying website. The poster will be distributed with the summer issue and at the summer conference. The initial phase of the poster project has been supported by grants from NSF and Yahoo! Research. Additional funding is being sought to support the produc-

tion of a full-size version to help support AI education, AAAI outreach, and AAAI membership recruiting.

Publications Access Task Force. Martha Pollack reported that the task force has examined the current access model for AAAI publications, and is in the process of examining whether changes should be made. She noted that there is increasing pressure to move to open access from authors and other interested individuals. However, there is a significant potential loss of membership and publications revenue in doing so. Pollack noted that Usenix recently opened access to all of its publications and did suffer a financial loss, but has launched a membership campaign to try to offset this. One other possible avenue is to retain and attract new library memberships by providing enhanced services for libraries. Several models of support for open access are also being considered, including author fees, embargoes of varying lengths, membership donation drives, and increases in membership fees. A membership survey will be conducted to gather further feedback for consideration by the task force. Pollack will present a proposal at the summer meeting.

Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG). Alan Mackworth, chair of the Strategic Planning Board (SPB) and the Working Group, noted that this group had been formed last summer to produce a strategic plan for the organization with a 10-year horizon. Following

the association's name change, as well as the increased and competing demands for resources, the council felt it was necessary to clarify AAAI's mission and goals. After breaking into subgroups, and preparing four working documents, the SPWG has developed a consolidated draft of the strategic plan. After some further editing, the plan will be circulated to the SPB for feedback, and presented to the AAAI Executive Council in July. Once the plan has been approved, it will be published in *AI Magazine* with an accompanying article on its development, and posted on the website. An implementation plan will be reviewed annually.

Presidential Panel. AAAI president Eric Horvitz announced that he has commissioned a study to explore and address potential long-term societal influences of AI research and development. The panel, cochaired by Bart Selman, will consider the nature and timing of potential AI successes, and will define and address societal challenges and opportunities in light of these potential successes. As part of their deliberations, the panel will study and address the myths and anxieties about AI's long-term futures, as well as potential socioeconomic, legal, and ethical issues that may be faced. The panel will produce a technical report that could be of wider use in communicating with the larger AI community and public. Horvitz welcomed feedback from the council.

International Engagements. Eric Horvitz initiated a discussion about potential AAAI-sponsored events in various venues throughout the world, including China and India. It is hoped that AAAI could sponsor a member event in one of these locations, in cooperation with the local or national society. Other possible involvement was suggested, such as support for or sponsorship of new or existing summer schools. In conjunction with international outreach, models of membership for developing countries might be explored.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.