

## Save the Dates! AAAI-10 and AAAI-11

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. The AAAI Conference will turn 25 in San Francisco in 2011. The Twenty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-11) will be held at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco, California, August 7–11, 2011. You won't want to miss this milestone event. Details about both conferences will be posted as they become available at [www.aaai.org/Conferences/conferences.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/conferences.php).

### Join us for IJCAI-09 and IAAI-09, in Pasadena, July 11–17!

The Twenty-First International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-09) and the Twenty-First Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-09) will be held in Pasadena, California at the Pasadena Convention Center, July 11–17, 2009.

The preliminary list of invited speakers for IJCAI-09 is now available at the conference website and includes Cristina Conati (University of British Columbia), Tom Dietterich (Oregon State University), Luc Steels (Free University of Brussels), Hal Varian (Google and University of California, Berkeley), Gerhard Widmer (Johannes Kepler University), Qiang Yang (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology). Award lectures will also be presented by the winners of the 2009 IJCAI Award for Research Excellence, Victor Lesser (University of Massachusetts Amherst), and the 2009 IJCAI Computers and Thought Award, Carlos Guestrin (Carnegie Mellon University) and Andrew Ng (Stanford University).

IAAI-09 speakers will include Bill Swartout of the USC Institute for Creative Technologies and Luis von Ahn of Carnegie Mellon University. Please

# AAAI News

## *Spring News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence*

check the IJCAI-09 and IAAI-09 websites for updates to the slate of speakers.

The IJCAI-09 conference will be flanked by several collocated conferences and will run in parallel with a number of competitions and other special programs. The overall IJCAI-09 program will include 19 half-day tutorials, 35 workshops, the Mobile Robot Exhibition, the Poker Competition, the Trading Agent Competition, the Video Competition, and the AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium.

Registration, hotel, and student housing information and forms are available on the IJCAI-09 conference web site at [ijcai-09.org](http://ijcai-09.org). The early registration deadline is May 15, 2009.

### Pasadena

Located at the base of the beautiful San Gabriel Mountains, Pasadena's central location serves as a gateway to all that Southern California has to offer. Pasadena itself offers a surprising combination of sophisticated charm, culture, history, and fun. Pasadena is Southern California's premier dining and entertainment destination, with over 500 restaurants. The city consists of several districts, including "Old Town," an historic 22-block area, offering more than 120 specialty shops, retail stores, and boutiques, 80 restaurants, and an array of entertainment opportunities.

Several world-class museums, including the Huntington Library and Art Gallery, the Norton Simon Museum, and the Pacific Asia Museum are located here, as well as several extensive botanical gardens at the Los An-

geles County Arboretum, the Huntington Library, and Descanso Gardens, reflecting Pasadena's association with the "Rose." The city has a rich architectural heritage, which includes an unusual concentration and diversity of landmark-quality buildings dating from the late 1880s. Be sure to visit the recently renovated City Hall—only steps away from the Pasadena Convention Center—an exquisite 1927 landmark exhibiting Italian Renaissance and Spanish influences.

Pasadena has a lively arts scene, with such diverse offerings as the famous Pasadena Playhouse or Ice House Comedy Club, which has played host to the comedic talents of Steve Martin, Robin Williams, and Lily Tomlin.

Pasadena has long been considered a premier center for science and technology, serving as the home to the California Institute of Technology and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, as well as several high-profile industry partners. For more information, please visit [www.pasadenacal.com/](http://www.pasadenacal.com/).

### Showcase Your Video at IJCAI-09!

The organizers of the third annual AAAI Video Competition are currently soliciting submissions by Sunday, May 17, 2009) for this very popular program. The goal of the Video Competition is to demonstrate how much fun AI is by documenting exciting artificial intelligence advances in research, education, and application. Accepted videos will be screened at IJCAI-09 on Monday, July 13. During that evening's session, the developers of

the best videos will be formally presented with awards. We strongly encourage student participation! For complete information about the program and how to submit, please see [ijcai-09.org](http://ijcai-09.org) or [www.avideo.org](http://www.avideo.org).

### The Eighteenth Annual Robot Exhibition and Workshop

The Eighteenth Edition of the Robotics Program at AAAI and IJCAI will feature the long-standing Robotics Exhibitions as well as demonstration of challenges in emerging areas of robotics research. Proposals are due March 23, 2009.

The Robotics Program has a long tradition of demonstrating innovating research in robotics at the intersection with artificial intelligence. This year, the IJCAI-09 Robotics Program will feature an open robotics exhibition, demonstrations for robotics challenge problems, and a workshop to present current results and discuss future directions.

The theme for IJCAI-09 Robotics is New Challenges for Robotics. This theme aims to cultivate challenge experiments to advance specific problems in robotics research and education. Each challenge is intended to be an experiment designed to motivate and evaluate an individual function of artificial intelligence for robotics, similar to the Semantic Robot Vision Challenge at AAAI-07. These challenges are meant to identify problems of interest as well as promote common metrics and experiments that are reproducible by individual researchers.

This year, participants are invited to demonstrate projects related to the following four challenges: (1) Mobile Manipulation, in the form of fetching various household objects; (2) Learning from Demonstration—teaching robots policies through human guidance; (3) Multirobot Teaming, such as for wireless coverage and other scenarios; and (4) Student Robotics Challenge—to motivate educational participation and curriculum.

For more contact Chad Jenkins at Brown University ([cjenkins@cs.brown.edu](mailto:cjenkins@cs.brown.edu)) or Monica Anderson at the University of Alabama ([monica@cs.ua.edu](mailto:monica@cs.ua.edu)) for more information). The URL is [robotics.cs.brown.edu/ijcai09](http://robotics.cs.brown.edu/ijcai09)

### The Ninth Annual Trading Agent Competition

Building on the success of previous Trading Agent Competition events, this year's event is designed to spur research on common problems, promote definitions of benchmarks and standard problem descriptions, and showcase current technologies. The competition will pit software agents—developed by research groups, students, and others from all over the world—against each other in challenging market games. This year, there will be two games, including TAC Ad Auctions (AA) and TAC Market Design, and two related challenge events. An entry fee may apply. The associated AAAI Workshop on Trading Agent Analysis and Design will be held July 13. For more information, contact Wolfgang Ketter ([wketter@rsm.nl](mailto:wketter@rsm.nl)), [tac-support@sics.se](mailto:tac-support@sics.se), or go to the competition web pages at [www.sics.se/tac](http://www.sics.se/tac).

### Please Join Us for ICWSM-09!

The Third International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held at the San Jose Marriott in San Jose, California, May 17–20, 2009. This interdisciplinary conference brings together researchers and industry leaders interested in creating and analyzing social media. Planning for the 2009 program is well underway and includes invited talks by Jon Kleinberg (Cornell University), Lillian Lee (Cornell University), and Duncan Watts (Columbia University). Two tutorials, Predictive Modeling with Social Networks presented by Jennifer Neville (Purdue University) and Foster Provost (New York University) and The Psychology of Social Media presented by Sam Gosling (University of Texas, Austin) will be held on the first afternoon of the conference, and the Data Challenge workshop will be held on the final afternoon.

Registration information and forms are now available via the ICWSM-09 web site at [www.icwsm.org](http://www.icwsm.org). The late registration deadline is April 17. For full details about the conference program, please visit the ICWSM-09 web-site or write to [icwsm09@aaai.org](mailto:icwsm09@aaai.org).

### The Fifth Annual Artificial Intelligence for Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-09)

AIIDE-09 organizers are currently accepting submissions for the Fifth Annual Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference, intended to be the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. The conference will be held October 14–16, 2009 at Stanford University, Stanford, California.

While traditionally emphasizing commercial computer and video games, researchers and developers are invited 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. Because AIIDE-09 crosses disciplinary boundaries, submissions will be evaluated based on their accessibility to both commercial game developers and researchers in addition to their technical merit.

AIIDE-09 will consist of two tracks, including the research track, where papers describe AI research results that make advances towards solving known game AI problems or enabling a new form of interactive digital entertainment, and the industry track, developed for individuals that have game development experience but lack the time or need for publishing rigorous academic papers. This track will include presentations of AI techniques, issues, or case studies from the perspective of implementing a product in the current commercial environment.

All submissions are due April 14, 2009. The complete call for papers and other information can be found on page 42 of this issue, and also at the AIIDE-09 web sites: [www.aiide.org](http://www.aiide.org) or [www.aaai.org/aiide09](http://www.aaai.org/aiide09).

### 2009 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The 2009 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 5–7, at the Westin Ar-

lington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The symposium series will be preceded on Wednesday, November 4 by a one-day AI funding seminar, which will be open to all registered attendees of the Fall Symposium Series. Please watch the 2009 Fall Symposium Series website ([www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss09.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss09.php)) for the full list of accepted proposals and the call for participation. The deadline for submissions is May 14, 2009.

## 2010 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI is currently accepting proposals for the 2010 Spring Symposium Series, to be held at Stanford University, California, March 22–24, 2010.

Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for the 2010 Spring Symposium Series. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Committee, (chair: Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri-Columbia; cochair: Chad Jenkins, Brown University; and associate chair: Holly Yanco, University of Massachusetts Lowell). Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than April 17, 2009. The Call for Proposals is available at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/ss10.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/ss10.php).

Please submit your symposium proposals by electronic mail (no postal submissions), and inquiries concerning symposia, to: Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, [skubicm@missouri.edu](mailto:skubicm@missouri.edu).

## AAAI Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mail for your AAAI ballot, which will be mailed to all regular AAAI members in April. The membership will vote for a president-elect, who will serve a two-year term, followed by two years as president and two years as past president, as well as four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. Ballots will be due back at the AAAI office no later than June 5. The Annual Business meeting for AAAI will be held this

# AAAI Member News

## In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that AAAI notes the passing of AAAI Fellow Oliver Selfridge on December 3, 2008. Considered an early leader in the field of artificial intelligence, Selfridge and a group of colleagues organized the first public meeting on artificial intelligence in 1956 at Dartmouth, leading to the creation of the field. After graduating from MIT at age 19 with a degree in mathematics, Selfridge worked with Norbert Wiener at MIT, the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, and was the associate director for Project MAC, CSAIL's parent initiative. He also worked for Bolt, Beranek & Newman, now BBN Technologies, which develops computer and communications-related technology. In 1983 he became chief scientist for the telecommunications company GTE. He served on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Security Agency, where he was chair of the Data Security Panel. His 1958 paper "Pandemonium: A Paradigm for Learning," which proposed a collection of small components dubbed "demons" that together would allow machines to recognize patterns, was a landmark contribution to the emerging science of machine learning. Along with producing scholarly papers and technical books, Selfridge also wrote several children's books, and was most recently working on a series of books designed to be the arithmetic equivalent of summer reading projects for schoolchildren.

## Joachims Awarded Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award

AAAI Life Member Thorsten Bernd Karl Joachims (Cornell University) has been elected the recipient of a Fraunhofer Bessel Research Award. This award honors scientists and scholars from all non-European countries, who completed their doctorates less than twelve years ago, who are internationally recognized for their achievements in the field of applied research, and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements, which will have a seminal influence on their discipline beyond their immediate field of work. Award winners are invited to spend a period of up to one year cooperating on a long-term research project with specialist colleagues at one of the Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany.

## Odest Chadwicke Jenkins Awarded Sloan Fellowship

AAAI congratulates AAAI member and AAAI Symposia cochair Odest Chadwick Jenkins (Brown University), who was recently awarded a 2009 Sloan Research Fellowship. The Sloan Research fellowships seek to stimulate fundamental research by early-career scientists and scholars of outstanding promise. They are awarded to researchers in recognition of distinguished performance and a unique potential to make substantial contributions to their field.

summer during IJCAI-09 in Pasadena. The exact day and time will be announced on the ballot, in the summer

issue of *AI Magazine*, and in the IJCAI-09 conference program.

## Inaugural Member Event Great Success

The second AAAI member event in Seattle was another great success. AAAI members and other interested individuals gathered at Microsoft on January 20 for Yuri Gurevich's talk The Church-Turing Thesis: Story and Recent Progress. Member events allow members of a local community to gather for an evening of lively discussion and networking surrounding a presentation by a preeminent AI researcher or industry representative. Events are open to all AAAI members and members of the AI community who would like to find out more about AAAI. Future events are in the planning stages. If you would be interested in hosting an event in your area, please contact Carol Hamilton at membership09@aaai.org.

## AAAI Opens Access to Technical Publications

AAAI is delighted to announce the first step in its major initiative to open up access to the technical content of its digital library. All AAAI conference proceedings and technical reports are now freely available to the international research community by clicking on Library at [www.aaai.org](http://www.aaai.org). During the coming months, AAAI will be migrating this section of the Library to an open area of the AAAI Open Journal System (OJS), the system that currently houses the archive of the *AI Magazine*. OJS will greatly enhance the user experience, by allowing readers to conduct extensive searches about articles and the author's other work without ever leaving our site.

Access to the contents of the latest issues of the *AI Magazine* will remain part of AAAI membership benefits. Current individual members of AAAI have been sent a new login name and temporary password. Please activate this account at your earliest convenience to access the latest issues of *AI Magazine* electronically without it. (Note that usernames and passwords issued prior to January 2009 are no longer valid.)

## Support AAAI Open Access

AAAI wishes to thank you for your ongoing support of the open access initiative and all AAAI programs through the continuation of your AAAI membership. We count on you to help us deliver the latest information about artificial intelligence to the scientific community. To enable us to continue this effort, we invite you to consider an additional gift to AAAI. For information on how you can contribute to the open access initiative, please see [www.aaai.org](http://www.aaai.org) and click on Gifts.

## Stay Informed with AAAI Member Announcements

If you are a member of AAAI and would like to receive periodic announcements and reminders about AAAI programs or other noteworthy AI news, please go to [www.aaai.org/cgi-dada/mail.cgi](http://www.aaai.org/cgi-dada/mail.cgi), choose AAAI-Members, enter your email address, and select "subscribe." If your email address changes, please be sure to follow the instructions for unsubscribing at your old address and subscribing at your new address.

## AAAI Job Bank

Check out the latest AI job postings at [www.aaai.org/Magazine/job-bank.php](http://www.aaai.org/Magazine/job-bank.php). Postings may also be submitted at the same site.

## IJCAI Announces 2009 Awards

The IJCAI Board of Trustees has announced its slate of 2009 awards, to be presented at IJCAI-09 in Pasadena, California.

The Research Excellence award is given to a scientist who has carried out a program of research of consistently high quality yielding several substantial results. The winner of the 2009 Award for Research Excellence is Victor Lesser, who holds a chair at the Department of Computer Science of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Lesser is recognized for his seminal work on the foundations of blackboard control architectures and multi-agent systems and his foundational

role in the formation of the multi-agent systems community.

The Computers and Thought Award is presented at IJCAI conferences to outstanding young scientists in artificial intelligence. There are two winners of the 2009 IJCAI Computers and Thought Award: Carlos Guestrin, assistant professor in the Machine Learning Department and the Computer Science Department of Carnegie Mellon University, and Andrew Ng, assistant professor in the Computer Science Department of Stanford University. Guestrin is recognized for significant contributions to machine learning, probabilistic reasoning, and intelligent distributed sensor networks. Ng is recognized for fundamental contributions to the application of machine learning to robot perception and control, for leadership in constructing robots that perform unscripted tasks in real environments, and for major contributions to machine learning.

The IJCAI Distinguished Service Award was established in 1979 by the IJCAI Trustees to honor senior scientists in AI for contributions and service to the field during their careers. The 2009 Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award will be given to Luigia Carlucci Aiello, who holds a chair at the Dipartimento di Informatica e Sistemistica, Università di Roma "La Sapienza." Aiello is recognized for her substantial contributions and extensive service to the field of artificial intelligence throughout her career.

## AAAS Fellows Announced

Each year the American Association for the Advancement of Science honors several hundred individuals for their contributions to the field of science of technology. 2008 honorees in the section on Information, Computing, and Communication include AAAI Fellows Pierre Baldi (University of California, Irvine) and Douglas B. Lenat (Cycorp, Inc.); Tom M. Mitchell (Carnegie Mellon University), and Leslie G. Valiant (Harvard University); and AAAI Member Aristides A.G. Requicha (University of Southern California) and Venkatramanan S. Subrahmanian (University of Maryland).