

## Please Join Us for AAAI / IAAI 2010 in Atlanta!

The Twenty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-10) will be held July 11–15, 2010, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia. The Twenty-Second Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-10) will be collocated with AAAI-10, and will be held July 13–15 (see [www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai10.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai10.php)).

The AAAI program cochairs for 2010, Maria Fox (University of Strathclyde, UK) and David Poole (University of British Columbia, Canada) will continue the innovations introduced during the past several years of the conference, including two new tracks and a new collocated education symposium. An overview of the special tracks is included in this quarter's AAAI News. For the full technical call for participation, as well as all program deadlines and guidelines, please visit the AAAI-10 website at [www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai10.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai10.php).

### Special Track on Artificial Intelligence and the Web

This special track invites research papers on AI techniques, systems and concepts involving or applied to the web. Papers should either describe web related research or clearly explain how the work addresses problems, opportunities or issues underlying the web or web-based systems.

### New! Special Track on Artificial Intelligence and Bioinformatics

This special track invites the submission of research papers on novel AI concepts, techniques, and systems to address current problems in bioinformatics and computational and systems biology. Papers should describe either bioinformatics related research that takes advantage of AI methods, or clearly explain how a particular AI approach may be capable of addressing a particular computational challenge arising from the life-sciences.

### New! Special Track on Challenges in AI

The AAAI-10 challenge track provides an opportunity for researchers to give

# AAAI News

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

a focused talk on a problem or problem class that is challenging for existing techniques and that they believe deserves dramatically more attention. A challenge paper should include a clear statement of the technical challenge, an argument as to why the challenge is important, discussion of previous relevant work, along with a means of evaluating progress. Ideally, a challenge issued in one AAAI will spark several years of intense research, the fruits of which are highlighted in the succeeding conferences. Challenges are welcome from specialists in traditional subfields as well as related disciplines that share with AI problems, techniques, or perspectives.

### Special Track on Integrated Intelligence

This track welcomes submissions on issues that arise in the design and construction of an integrated system, which include clear evidence for the efficacy of the integration. Papers should highlight synergistic effects of integrating components from distinct areas of AI to achieve intelligent behavior. They should articulate the innovative mechanisms used to combine multiple components and should demonstrate the synergy achieved through this integration.

### Special Track on Physically Grounded Artificial Intelligence

This track welcomes papers in robotics, vision, activity recognition and other areas of artificial intelligence where computers interface to physical environments. Papers should either

describe related research or clearly explain how the work addresses problems in physically embodied agents, opportunities, or issues underlying such systems.

### Senior Member Papers

The Senior Member presentation track provides an opportunity for established researchers to give a broad talk on a well-developed body of research, an important new research area, or a thoughtful critique of trends in the field.

### Nectar Papers

The goal of the Nectar special track (new scientific and technical advances in research) is to make the most significant AI results presented at other conferences in the last two years available to a broad AI audience. Papers that are based on important results already published in the proceedings of at least one major specialized conference during 2008 or 2009, as either a single paper or a series of papers, are welcome. This program aims to offer researchers the opportunity to learn about areas with which they may not already be familiar, as well as encourage the sort of cross-disciplinary AI work that has historically been supported by AAAI.

### New! Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence

AAAI is pleased to announce the launch of the first AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI), to be held in conjunction with AAAI-10 in Atlanta. The

## AAAI-10 / IAAI-10 Deadlines

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

- *December 1, 2009 – Paper Deadline:* Technical Authors register on the AAAI and IAAI web sites
- *January 18, 2010:* AAAI-10 electronic technical and special track abstracts due
- *January 19, 2010:* IAAI-10 electronic papers due
- *January 21, 2010:* AAAI-10 electronic technical and special track papers due
- *January 27, 2010:* AAAI-10 Student abstracts due
- *February 5, 2010:* AAAI-10 Doctoral Consortium applications due
- *February 9, 2010:* AAAI-10 Senior Member and Nectar papers due
- *March 8-10, 2010:* AAAI author feedback about initial reviews
- *March 5, 2010:* IAAI notification of acceptance or rejection
- *March 26, 2010:* AAAI notification of acceptance or rejection
- *March 29, 2010:* AAAI-10 workshop submissions due
- *March 30, 2010:* IAAI electronic camera-ready copy due at AAAI office
- *April 13, 2010:* AAAI electronic camera-ready copy due at AAAI office
- *April 15, 2010:* Student Volunteer applications due
- *May 14, 2010:* AAAI-10 Robot Competition registrations due

are available. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at [volunteer10@aaai.org](mailto:volunteer10@aaai.org). The deadline for volunteer applications is April 15, 2010.

## ICWSM-10

*Submissions Due January 8, 2010!* The Fourth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held at George Washington University in Washington, DC, May 23–26, 2010. The Conference Committee invites paper and poster or demo submissions from a broad array of disciplines, including computational linguistics / NLP, text mining / data mining, psychology, sociology (including social network analysis), anthropology, communications, media studies, visualization, HCI, and graph theory, concrete analysis and simulation of graphical models. For complete submission instructions, please see [www.icwsm.org/2010](http://www.icwsm.org/2010).

ICWSM-09 will feature two keynote addresses by Bob Kraut (Carnegie Mellon University) entitled *Designing Online Communities from Theory* and Michael Kearns (University of Pennsylvania) entitled *Behavioral Experiments in Strategic Networks*. Other invited speakers will include Macon Phillips (U.S. White House, Head of New Media), James Pennebaker (Department of Psychology, University of Texas), Nicole Ellison (Department of Telecommunications, Michigan State University), S. Craig Watkins (Department of Radio, TV, Film, University of Texas), Don Burke (IA, Intellipedia), and Haym Hirsh (NSF IIS). For more information about ICWSM-10, please write to [icwsm10@aaai.org](mailto:icwsm10@aaai.org).

## 2010 AAAI Spring Symposium Series

The 2010 AAAI Spring Symposium Series will be held Monday, Wednesday, March 22-24 at Stanford University and will feature the following seven symposia:

- AI-D: Artificial Intelligence for Development

EAAI symposium will provide a venue for AI researchers involved in education to share their innovative approaches to education and teaching. In contrast to work on using AI as a building block in educational systems (i.e., intelligent tutoring systems), EAAI focuses on pedagogical issues related to teaching AI at a variety of levels (from K-12 through postgraduate training). The EAAI symposium will be comprised of several components, including a program of high-quality refereed papers, panels, special sessions, and invited talks; a pre-symposium workshop for mentoring new faculty/instructors/teaching assistants; an Educational/Teaching Video track within the AAAI Video Program; a Student/Educator Robotics track within the AAAI Robotics Exhibition and Workshop; and a poster session, held in conjunction with the AAAI poster session. For more information about the symposium, please visit the AAAI-10 website or write to us at [aaai10@aaai.org](mailto:aaai10@aaai.org).

AAAI-10 will also include all of these ongoing programs!

- AAAI-10 Tutorial Forum
- AAAI-10 Workshop Program (for a listing of the workshops, see page 5)

- AAAI-10 Student Abstract & Poster Program
- Fifteenth AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium
- AAAI Mobile Robot Workshop and Exhibition
- AAAI General Game Playing Competition
- AAAI Poker Competition
- AAAI Video Competition

Please see the shaded box on this page for a few important deadlines to note on your calendar.

## AAAI-10 Conference Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Volunteer Programs for 2010. The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in Atlanta. In 2010, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to participating students for the volunteer positions. Local students or students not requiring travel assistance can apply for the Volunteer Program if openings

- Cognitive Shape Processing
- Educational Robotics and Beyond: Design and Evaluation
- Embedded Reasoning: Intelligence in Embedded Systems
- Intelligent Information Privacy Management
- It's All in the Timing: Representing and Reasoning about Time in Interactive Behavior
- Linked Data Meets Artificial Intelligence

Registration information is available at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/ss10.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/ss10.php). Please note that the deadline for registration for invited participants is February 5 and the general registration deadline is February 26.

## 2010 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The recent 2009 Fall Symposium Series was a great success with over 250 participants. The 2010 Fall Symposium Series will return to the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia just outside of Washington, DC, Thursday – Saturday, November 11–13. Proposals for approximately eight symposia are now being accepted. Proposals should be sent no later than January 29, 2010 via e-mail to Symposium Committee Chair Marjorie Skubic (University of Missouri) at [skubicm@missouri.edu](mailto:skubicm@missouri.edu). For the complete call for proposals, please see [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss10.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss10.php).

## AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2010 Fellows Selection Committee is currently accepting nominations for AAAI Fellow. The AAAI Fellows program is designed to recognize people who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence over at least a ten-year period. All regular members in good standing are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. At least two references must accompany nominations. The nominator or one of the references must be a AAAI Fellow who is a current member of AAAI. For further information about the Fellows Program or to receive nomination and

# AAAI 2010 Workshops

The AAAI-10 workshops will be held Sunday and Monday, July 11–12, in Atlanta, Georgia. The co-chairs of the AAAI-10 workshop program are Michael Beetz, Technische Universität München ([beetz@cs.tum.edu](mailto:beetz@cs.tum.edu)) and Giuseppe De Giacomo, Sapienza Università di Roma ([degiamoco@dis.uniroma1.it](mailto:degiamoco@dis.uniroma1.it)). A preliminary list of workshops that have been accepted into the program follows. For complete information about schedules and guidelines for participation, please see [www.aaai.org/Workshops/ws10.php](http://www.aaai.org/Workshops/ws10.php).

- W1: AI and Fun  
*Contact:* Mark Riedl, Georgia Institute of Technology ([riedl@gatech.edu](mailto:riedl@gatech.edu))
- W2: Bridging the Gap between Task and Motion Planning  
*Contact:* Maxim Likhachev, University of Pennsylvania ([maximl@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:maximl@seas.upenn.edu))
- W3: Collaboratively-Built Knowledge Sources for Artificial Intelligence  
*Contact:* Vivi Nastase, EML Research gGmb ([nastase@eml-research.de](mailto:nastase@eml-research.de))
- W4: Goal-Directed Autonomy  
*Contact:* David W. Aha, Naval Research Lab ([david.aha@nrl.navy.mil](mailto:david.aha@nrl.navy.mil))
- W5: Intelligent Security  
*Contact:* Mark Boddy, Adventium Labs ([mark.boddy@adventiumlabs.org](mailto:mark.boddy@adventiumlabs.org))
- W6: Interactive Decision Theory and Game Theory  
*Contact:* Piotr Gmytrasiewicz, University of Illinois at Chicago ([piotr@cs.uic.edu](mailto:piotr@cs.uic.edu))
- W7: Metacognition for Robust Social Systems  
*Contact:* Anita Raja, University of North Carolina at Charlotte ([anraja@uncc.edu](mailto:anraja@uncc.edu))
- W8: Model Checking and Artificial Intelligence  
*Contact:* Jan-Georg Smaus, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg ([smaus@informatik.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:smaus@informatik.uni-freiburg.de))
- W9: Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning  
*Contact:* Artur d'Avila Garcez, City University London ([aag@soi.city.ac.uk](mailto:aag@soi.city.ac.uk))
- W10: PAIR: Plan, Activity, and Intent Recognition 2010  
*Contact:* Christopher Geib, University of Edinburgh ([cgeib@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:cgeib@inf.ed.ac.uk))
- W11: StarAI — Statistical Relational AI  
*Contact:* Kristian Kersting, University of Bonn/Fraunhofer IAIS ([kristian.kersting@iais.fraunhofer.de](mailto:kristian.kersting@iais.fraunhofer.de))
- W12: Visual Representations and Reasoning  
*Contact:* Keith McGreggor, Georgia Institute of Technology ([keith.mcgreggor@gatech.edu](mailto:keith.mcgreggor@gatech.edu))

## Visit AAAI on Facebook and LinkedIn

AAAI recently launched a presence on both Facebook and LinkedIn. We invite all interested individuals to check out the Facebook site by searching for AAAI. If you are a current member of AAAI, you can also join us on LinkedIn. We welcome your feedback on these new initiatives at [info10@aaai.org](mailto:info10@aaai.org).

reference forms, please contact AAAI at 650-328-3123; by fax at 650-321-4457; or by e-mail at [fellows09@aaai.org](mailto:fellows09@aaai.org). Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI web site at [www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php). The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2010.

### 2010 Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its two special awards in 2010, and is currently seeking nominations for the 2010 AAAI Classic Paper Award, and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award. The 2010 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Ninth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1991 in Anaheim, California. The 2010 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-10 in Atlanta. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at [www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.php). The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2010. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org).

### New! The Feigenbaum Prize

The first biennial AAAI Feigenbaum Prize will be awarded in 2010 at AAAI-10. The AAAI Feigenbaum Prize recognizes and encourages outstanding Ar-

tificial Intelligence research advances that are made by using experimental methods of computer science. The "laboratories" for the experimental work are real-world domains, and the power of the research results are demonstrated in those domains. The Feigenbaum Prize may be given for a sustained record of high-impact seminal contributions to experimental AI research; or it may be given to reward singular remarkable innovation and achievement in experimental AI research. The prize is \$10,000 and is provided by the Feigenbaum Nii Foundation and administered by AAAI. For complete details about how to submit nominations for this prize, please see [www.aaai.org/Awards/feigenbaum.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/feigenbaum.php)

### AAAI Gifts Program

It is the generosity and loyalty of our members that enable us to continue to provide the best possible service to the AI community and promote and further the science of artificial intelligence by sustaining the many and varied programs that AAAI provides. AAAI invites all members and other interested parties to consider a gift to help support the open access initiative, as well as the dozens of other programs that AAAI currently sponsors. For more information about the Gift Program, please see [www.aaai.org/Forms/donate.php](http://www.aaai.org/Forms/donate.php) or write to us at [donate10@aaai.org](mailto:donate10@aaai.org).

### Subscribe to the AAAI Announcements List

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 e-mail address, and select "subscribe." If your e-mail 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.

### Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council meeting was held July 10, 2009 in Pasadena, California.

*Attending:* Eric Horvitz, Martha E. Pollack, Alan Mackworth, Ted Senator, Henry Kautz, David Aha, Cynthia Breazeal, Carla Brodley, Tony Cohn, Amy Greenwald, Gal Kaminka, Subbarao Kambhampati, David Leake, Mark Maybury, Sheila McIlraith, David Musliner, Michael Pazzani, Alan Schultz, David E. Smith, Rich Sutton, Ed Feigenbaum, Bart Selman, Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton

*Not Attending:* Claire Cardie, Tuomas Sandholm, Holly Yanco, Dieter Fox, Marie desjardins

AAAI President Eric Horvitz convened the meeting at 9:10 AM. He mentioned that several Council members would be participating via teleconference because of the unusual timing of the meeting — several days prior to the commencement of the technical program. Horvitz also welcomed the new members of the council, including President-Elect Henry Kautz (University of Rochester) and the four newly elected councilors: Carla Brodley (Tufts University), Subbarao Kambhampati (Arizona State University), Mark Maybury (MITRE Information Technology Center), and Alan Schultz (Navy Center for Applied Research in Artificial Intelligence). At the same time, he thanked the retiring members of the Council for all their contributions dur-

ing the past several years: Past President Alan Mackworth and Councilors David Aha, David Musliner, Michael Pazzani, and Holly Yanco.

Horvitz mentioned that three additional items would be added to the agenda, including a report on the Video Competition, a report on the Strategic Planning Board and Working Group, and a discussion of the Development Committee.

The Council had a short discussion about the frequency and timing of their meetings, and approved a motion to add at least one additional meeting in the fall of 2009, which would be of shorter duration and more focused on a small number of topics.

AAAI Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator reviewed the legal responsibilities of each councilor including the duties of care, loyalty and obedience. He recommended that each councilor read the handout describing these duties, and also review the bylaws of AAAI. Finally, he noted that each councilor is required to participate on at least two committees of the Executive Council and to regularly attend all meetings of the Council.

### Standing Committee Reports

*Finance:* Senator submitted a lengthy report describing the current state of AAAI finances. He noted that several major cuts were made in the winter of 2008, which took effect earlier this year. As a result, the operating deficit is expected to be reduced by approximately \$150,000 in 2009 from 2008, and an additional \$134,000 in 2010. The investment portfolio at the time of the meeting was \$5,401,354, so the projected deficit for 2009 would be 7.3 percent of the investments if they remained at that level until the end of the fiscal year. Overall, we are trying to achieve an operating deficit of no more than 5 percent each year. Senator explained that this would be difficult in the current economy. Incoming President Martha Pollack noted that the Executive Committee was confident that the current budget after the cuts, which she reviewed, is sustainable, and that averaging the operating deficit over several years is standard for many nonprofits.

Senator also gave a short recap of

how the investments are allocated. These are dictated by the AAAI financial policy. In the transition to Vanguard last year, two asset classes were added to the mix, and Senator instituted a rebalancing plan that will make the portfolio less sensitive to fluctuations in the market. Senator is also in the process of reconstituting the Finance Committee, and encouraged councilors who are interested to let him know.

*Awards, Fellows, and Nominating:* Past President Alan Mackworth, who served as chair of the Awards, Fellows, and Nominating Committees for the past two years gave a quick update on the activities of these three committees. The Awards Committee was not active this year because it was an IJCAI year and the Classic Paper and Distinguished Service Awards were not presented. The Fellows Committee elected nine new Fellows, including Wolfram Burgard (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg), William W. Cohen (Carnegie Mellon University and Google), Andrew K. McCallum (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Jeffrey S. Rosenschein (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Dan Roth (University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign), Daniela Rus (MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL)), Robert E. Schapire (Princeton University), Venkatramanan Siva Subrahmanian (University of Maryland, College Park), and Pascal R. Van Hentenryck (Brown University). They were to be honored during the annual Fellows dinner at IJCAI-09. The Nominating Committee put together a slate of one presidential candidate and 8 councilors. The newly elected members of the Council are listed at the beginning of these minutes.

Carol Hamilton also noted that the Robert S. Engelmere Memorial Lecture Award was being given to William Swartout, and four IAAI-09 Deployed Application Awards were also being presented during the conference. A series of awards were being given throughout the conference for robot, poker, and video competitions.

*Conference Outreach:* Sheila McLraith noted that the Conference Outreach program continues to be strong with 32 participating conferences at the

## Save the Date! August 7–11, 2011

For the very first time, the AAAI conference will come to the City by the Bay, just in time to celebrate its 25th anniversary in San Francisco! The Twenty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-11) and the Twenty-Third Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-11) will be held in San Francisco at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, August 7–11, 2011. Please mark your calendars, and visit [www.aaai.org/aaai11](http://www.aaai.org/aaai11) for updates later this year!

current time. She encouraged councilors to send suggestions for additional conferences to herself or Carol Hamilton. As part of this discussion, the Council suggested broadening the scope of our outreach to societies to see if there are mutually beneficial cooperation programs that could be implemented, such as joint workshops or memberships. The Council agreed to form a committee with this goal specifically in mind.

*Membership:* Carol Hamilton reported that membership had declined during the past year, and cited several possible reasons for this, including the economy, no discounted membership rate for IJCAI, the suspension of student scholarships (students had to be AAAI members to qualify), the open access initiative, and the recent dues increase. The Council discussed several possible programs to encourage membership attraction and retention, including partnering with AI lab advisors to recruit new students and instituting a senior and distinguished member program for established members. The continuation of the AAAI Member Events in selected geographical regions is another goal. Hamilton noted that a new member-

## AAAI E-mail Addresses

Please note that AAAI will be modifying its e-mail addresses in 2010 in an effort to reduce the amount of spam that we are receiving. We will be adding 10 to all e-mail addresses, as follows:

aaai10  
 aiide10  
 aimagazine10  
 aitopics10  
 fellows10  
 fss10  
 iaai10  
 icwsm10  
 info10  
 membership10  
 orders10  
 press10  
 sss10  
 volunteer10  
 workshops10

*The number will be updated on an annual basis. AAAI can also be reached by filling out the contact form at [www.aaai.org/scripts/Contact/contact.php](http://www.aaai.org/scripts/Contact/contact.php).*

ship chair is needed, and encouraged interested individuals to sign up.

**Publications:** Publications Chair David Leake reported that Alan Schultz has joined the Publications Committee, replacing outgoing member Michael Pazani. Upcoming issues of *AI Magazine* include special issues on computational creativity and usability and AI. Leake solicited additional ideas for special issues from the Council members. The Council discussed several ideas to enhance the current format of *AI Magazine*, including the idea of a President's Corner, editorials, and short reports from various research areas. AAAI Press has published several new technical re-

ports during the first half of 2009, including those from the Spring Symposium, ICWSM workshop, and Robot Competition. In addition, several proceedings for AAAI and AAAI-affiliated conferences have been published. Submission of all final camera-ready copy has now been migrated to the Open Conference System (OCS), and the conversion of the Digital Library to OJS from OCS is continuing.

**Conference:** Carol Hamilton reported that the ICWSM conference had a strong attendance, but the ratio of students to regular attendees was much higher than in 2008, resulting in lower overall revenue. The Council discussed whether the IAAI conference should be converted to a special track of the main AAAI conference. Ted Senator noted that this conference has specific requirements that are very different from those for the technical conference, especially with regard to the solicitation of papers and their review. The issue was delegated to the Conference Committee later in the week.

**Symposium:** Carol Hamilton reported that Holly Yanco has stepped down as the Symposium Associate Chair, and Alan Schultz has been nominated as her replacement. The 2010 Spring Symposium has a lower number of symposia than usual, but they are all expected to be strong. The 2009 Spring Symposium was extremely well attended with 335 registrants and nine symposia. The 2009 Fall Symposium will be held in Arlington, Virginia for the fourth year and will be preceded by the AI Funding Seminar.

### Ongoing Business

**CRA:** Martha Pollack announced that Marie desJardins will be stepping down as the AAAI CRA Board Representative, and asked for a volunteer to replace her. On behalf of desJardins, Pollack reported that the CRA is running the CIFellows program, which will fund over 50–60 postdocs. The program, funded by NSF, had over 500 student applicants, with the highest concentration in AI. Funding for computer science is likely to increase in the near future due to the multi-year reach of stimulus money, making more funds available for new projects.

This year's Taulbee Survey has been distributed, showing some modest increases in student enrollment and production. The Computing Community Consortium hosted the "Computing Research that Changed the World: Reflections and Perspectives" symposium and associated events at the Library of Congress in March, which generated significant publicity within the congressional community.

**IJCAI-09:** Carol Hamilton reported that IJCAI-09 registration was strong, despite the economy, with over 1,150 paid preregistrants and 200 other participating attendees. Due to a decrease in the proportion of student attendees, the conference is expected to break even. The Council asked Hamilton to investigate the current terms of AAAI's longterm agreement with IJCAI. Normally, IJCAI would return to North America in 2015.

**Presidential Panel:** Eric Horvitz reported that a panel on AI Futures will be presented during IJCAI-09. The panel is an outgrowth of the Presidential Panel on the same subject held earlier this year at Asilomar. The members of the panel are also working on a final report, which will be published later this fall. Horvitz hopes that this will be a useful tool for media and others interested in this topic. David Leake would like to include the report in an upcoming issue of *AI Magazine*, along with a point/counterpoint feature.

**AI Archive Committee:** Martha Pollack reported that she had met with several archivists during the past few months to get a sense of the magnitude of what is involved in the process of archiving videos and other materials related to the history of AI. Her conclusion was that this is a very expensive, far-reaching enterprise, and that the best institution to undertake such a project is a library, which is already set up for this purpose. Ed Feigenbaum, who has been working on the exhibit on the history of AI at the Computer History Museum, agreed that AAAI does not have the resources to undertake curating personal papers and video. It would be more advantageous to partner with libraries, and libraries are likely to welcome participation from organizations who can help them develop their collections.

## Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Senior Position Department of Computer Science, Virginia Tech

The Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech ([www.cs.vt.edu](http://www.cs.vt.edu)) invites applications for a full-time tenured position at the Professor or Associate Professor rank from candidates in artificial intelligence with particular interests in machine learning, knowledge representation, or data mining. Candidates should have an established record of scholarship, leadership, and collaboration in computing and interdisciplinary areas; demonstrated ability to contribute to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels in AI and related subjects; sensitivity to issues of diversity in the campus community; and the skills needed to establish and grow a multidisciplinary research group.

CS@VT has over 40 tenure-track research-oriented faculty. PhD production is among the top 30 in the US and annual research expenditures exceed \$6 million. There are rich opportunities in a highly collaborative department with strengths in HCI, HPC, CS education, digital libraries, computational biology and bioinformatics. Active interdisciplinary research also explores CyberArts, digital government, problem-solving environments. Emphases on security and personal health informatics are underway in collaboration with the newly formed VT-Carilion Research Institute associated with the VT-Carilion School of Medicine, opening in Fall 2010.

CS@VT is part of the College of Engineering ([www.eng.vt.edu](http://www.eng.vt.edu)) in a comprehensive research university with more than 26,000 students. The main campus is in Blacksburg, which is consistently ranked among the country's best places to live (<http://www.liveinblacksburg.com/>).

Salary for suitably qualified applicants is competitive and commensurate with experience. Virginia Tech is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

**Applications must be submitted online to <https://jobs.vt.edu> for posting #090529.**

Applicant screening will begin January 15, 2010 and continue until the position is filled. Inquiries should be directed to Dennis Kafura, Hiring Committee Chair, [kafura@cs.vt.edu](mailto:kafura@cs.vt.edu).

CAMBRIDGE

NOTEWORTHY NEW TITLES FROM CAMBRIDGE

The Quest for Artificial Intelligence  
NILS J. NILSSON

"With the investigatory skill of a historian for the earliest work, personal recollections and reflections of early work, and unprecedented access to current researchers; and with the wit of a skilled author and teacher and the insight of a founding father, Nils Nilsson is uniquely qualified to present this lucid, comprehensive, entertaining and balanced history of AI."

— Peter Norvig, Director of Research, Google Inc.

\$120.00: HB: 978-0-521-11639-8: 584 pp.  
\$39.99: PB: 978-0-521-12293-1

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Constraint Handling Rules  
THOM FRÜHWIRTH  
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RADKO MESIAR • ENDRE PAP  
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Modeling and Reasoning  
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AAAI can provide an official sanction for a library that is actively building a history of AI archive. Feigenbaum also asked for volunteers to serve on his emerging committee on archiving.

*Strategic Planning:* Alan Mackworth noted that the Strategic Planning Board comprises the past presidents and current president of the Association. During the past two years, Mackworth has been heading up a Strategic Planning Working Group, which is an offshoot of this Board. SPWG developed a document that can serve as a guideline for strategic principles for the Association. A full strategic plan would be the next step. Eric Horvitz thanked Alan for all his work as chair of this and other committees during the past two years, as well as his tenure as President-Elect and President.

There was a presentation of gifts to the outgoing, current, and incoming Presidents. Martha thanked Eric Horvitz for all his outstanding service during the past two years as AAAI President.

*Feigenbaum Prize:* Eric Horvitz announced the establishment of the AAAI Feigenbaum Prize, which is to be awarded biennially to recognize and encourage outstanding Artificial Intelligence research advances that are made by using experimental methods of computer science in real-world domains. The first award will be presented in 2010, and will include a \$10,000 prize, provided by the Feigenbaum Nii Foundation. Ed Feigenbaum was present to present a donation of \$50,000 to AAAI to establish the award and fund it for the first five award cycles. Horvitz thanked Feigenbaum and Penny Nii for their generosity in establishing this award. AAAI will establish a subcommittee of the current Awards Committee to administer the award.

*Bylaws Proposal:* Ted Senator reviewed the proposal to modify the current bylaws to update the committee structure, including the following: (1) Enable the President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, to form committees for special projects. Such committees would not have the authority of the Executive Council, but would study issues and make recommendations to the Executive Council; (2) Remove the Program

Committee as a committee of the Council and add the Symposium Committee as a committee of the Council; and (3) Fix some inconsistencies between the bylaws and corresponding sections of the California Corporations Code. The Executive Council approved all three proposed changes, pending a final review by Senator of the proposed wording.

*Social Networks:* Eric Horvitz reported on AAAI's efforts thus far in the social network arena. Horvitz established a Facebook fan site, open to all interested individuals, which highlights upcoming AAAI events and issues. In addition, AAAI has a presence on LinkedIn, where membership is limited to current AAAI members. Both sites have grown steadily in membership. The Facebook site will require someone to manage it during the coming year. All agreed that both sites are useful tools in raising the visibility of AAAI and also recruiting members. Martha Pollack agreed to chair a committee on social media to further investigate opportunities for AAAI to move into this space.

*Federated Conference on AI:* Martha Pollack sought feedback from Council members on the possibility of a federated AI conference in 2014 or beyond. The federated conference would address the problem of fragmentation in the field, and provide an opportunity for crossover among subcommunities. A discussion ensued about the advantages of this approach over simple collocation, which often lacks coordinated programs and events. Pollack noted that such an undertaking would require careful planning, including the establishment of a brand, conference theme, and significant coordinated fundraising. There was general enthusiasm for the idea, and Pollack will follow up in Executive Committee discussions.

*Video Competition:* David Aha noted that the 2009 Video Competition attracted 39 submissions, and had awarded prizes in eight categories. There was strong interest in continuing this event for 2010. Currently, the archive of videos is available at Videlectures.net, and Aha wondered if AAAI plans to make them available at AI Topics. This will be part of the on-

going discussion in both the archiving and AI Topics committees. Mark Maybury offered to participate in the future plans for the Video Competition.

## New Business

*Committee Sign-Ups:* The members of the Executive Council took a few moments to sign up for existing and newly formed committees. These expressions of interest will be compiled and a recommended list of committee members will be circulated to the approved committee chairs.

*Best Thesis Award:* Bart Selman and Eric Horvitz explored the possibility of establishing a AAAI Best Thesis Award. A sponsor for the award would need to be found, and the scope of the award would need to be established. Several issues need to be addressed including duplication of effort by ACM, and the amount of work expected of the review committee. After some discussion, the Council generally supported the idea of making it an "Outstanding Thesis Award" rather than a "Best Thesis Award," which would allow the committee more flexibility in terms of the number of awards given each year (ranging from none to several). A small subcommittee of the Awards Committee will study the issue in the coming months. Rao Kambhampati offered to serve on this committee.

*International Issues:* Martha Pollack lead a general discussion on international issues facing AAAI during the coming years. At past international society meetings, national societies have expressed a need for better coordination among societies, and the desire for AAAI or IJCAI to lead this effort. There has only been minimal effort in this area. Other challenges include the growth of international membership in AAAI, which also requires cooperation and coordination with other national societies. Suggestions included the establishment of international representatives on the AAAI Executive Council, international chapters, reciprocal or cooperative memberships, and international conference services. The Council agreed that a cooperative effort with other societies would be most effective.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.