Congratulations to the 2010 AAAI Award Winners!

Henry Kautz, AAAI President, and Eric Horvitz, AAAI Past President and Awards Committee Chair, presented the AAAI Awards in July at AAAI-10 in Atlanta. For information about nominations for AAAI 2011 Awards, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org or 650-328-3123.

AAAI News

Fall News from the
Association for the Advancement
of Artificial Intelligence

The AAAI Classic Paper Award

The 2010 AAAI Classic Paper Award was given to the authors of the most influential paper from the Ninth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1991 in Anaheim, California. The award was presented to David McAllester and David Rosenblitt for Systematic Nonlinear Planning. This paper was honored for contributing seminal principles of systematic nonlinear planning, with wide-ranging influences on the evolution of research on automated planning.

David McAllester received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1978, 1979, and 1987 respectively. He served on the faculty of Cornell University for the academic year of 1987-1988 and served on the faculty of MIT from 1988 to 1995. He was a member of technical staff at AT&T Labs-Research from 1995 to 2002. He has been a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) since 1997. Since 2002 he has been Chief Academic Officer at the Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago (TTIC) He has authored over 80 refereed publications.

McAllester's research areas include machine learning, the theory of programming languages, automated reasoning, AI planning, computer game playing (computer chess), computational linguistics and computer vision. A 1991 paper on AI planning proved to be one of the most influential papers of the decade in that area. A 1993 paper on computer game algorithms influenced the design of the algorithms used in the Deep Blue system that defeated Gary Kasparov. A 1998 paper on machine learning theory introduced PAC-Bayesian theorems, which combine Bayesian and non-Bayesian methods. He is currently part of a team that has scored in the top two places in the PASCAL object detection challenge (computer vision) in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Distinguished Service Award

The 2010 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 Alan K. Mackworth of the University of British Columbia. Mackworth was honored specifically for his outstanding service to artificial intelligence, including seminal scientific contributions in constraint-based representations and methods, with pioneering efforts in machine vision, robotics, and situated agents, and his sustained service in numerous key leadership roles, including the presidencies of AAAI, IJCAI, and the Canadian Society for Computational Studies of Intelligence (CSCSI), amidst a lifetime of catalyzing and promoting AI research.

Alan Mackworth is a professor of computer science and Canada Research Chair in Artificial Intelligence at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He was educated at Toronto (B.A.Sc.), Harvard (A.M.) and Sussex (D.Phil.). He works on constraint-based artificial intelligence with applications in vision, robotics, situated agents, assistive technology and sustainability. He is known as a pioneer in the areas of constraint satisfaction, robot soccer, hybrid systems and constraint-based agents. He has authored over 100 papers and coauthored two books: *Computational Intelligence: A Logical Approach* (1998) and *Artificial Intelligence: Foundations of Computational Agents* (2010).

Mackworth was president and trustee of International Joint Conferences on AI (IJCAI) Inc.; he is on the IJCAI Executive Committee. He has served on many editorial boards and program committees. He was vice president and president of the Canadian Society for Computational Studies of Intelligence (CSCSI). He served as president of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). He has received the ITAC / NSERC Award for Academic Excellence, the Killam Research Prize, the CSCSI Distinguished Service Award, the Association for Constraint Programming Award for Research Excellence and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Canadian AI Association (CAIAC). He served as the founding director of the UBC Laboratory for Computational Intelligence. He is a fellow of AAAI, the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and the Royal Society of Canada.

2010 Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award

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

David McAllester   Alan Mackworth   Jay M. Tenenbaum

Congratulations to the
2010 AAAI Award Winners!

lecture is presented at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference. Topics encompass Engelmore'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 2010 recipient of this award, Jay M. Tenenbaum of CollabRx Inc. Tenenbaum was honored for his pioneering artificial intelligence contributions with extensive applications impact, including seminal work in computer vision and manufacturing along with a visionary role in the birth of electronic commerce. He presented his talk at the recent Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference in Atlanta. Georgia on "Cancer: A Computational Disease that AI Can Cure," which will be available at videolectures.net soon.

Tenenbaum was educated at MIT and Stanford in the 1960s. He spent the 1970s doing artificial intelligence research at SRI, the 1980s managing computer science research for Schlumberger, and the 1990s pioneering Internet commerce. He's currently focused on using the AI and the Web to transform medicine.

Outstanding Paper Awards

This year, AAAI's Conference on Artificial Intelligence honored two 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 the following papers:

A Novel Transition Based Encoding Scheme for Planning as Satisfiability. *Ruoyun Huang, Yixin Chen, Weixiong Zhang (Washington Univ. in St. Louis)*

How Incomplete is your Semantic Web Reasoner? Systematic Analysis of the Completeness of Query Answering Systems. *Giorgos Stoilos, Bernardo Cuenca Grau, Ian Horrocks (Oxford University)*

Program Committee Awards

AAAI-10 program cochairs Maria Fox and David Poole recognized the following members of the AAAI-10 Program Committee for their distinguished service on the committee. These individuals used extreme care, thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and diligence in the execution of their duties while serving on the Program Committee.

AAAI-10 Outstanding Program Committee Member: Jerome Lang (IRIT, Université Paul Sabatier, France)

AAAI-10 Outstanding Program Committee Member: Chris Beck (University of Toronto, Canada)

AI Video Competition Winners

The fourth annual AI video competition was held during AAAI-10 and several winning videos were honored during the awards presentation. Videos were nominated for awards in three categories, and winners received a gold "Shakey" award following the opening reception during the conference. Our thanks go to Arnav Jhala and Kennth Stanley for all their work in pulling off this exciting event in Atlanta.

The winners of the three awards were as follows:

Best Video: Case-based Imitation: A Sequel. *Babak Esfandiari and Michael Floyd (University of Victoria)*

Best Student Video: Reactive Teaming of Game Characters. *G. Michael Youngblood and Frederick Heckel (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)*

Best Educational Video: The Qualitative Learner of Action and Perception (QLAP). *Jonathan Mugan and Benjamin Kuipers (University of Texas at Austin and University of Michigan)*

AAAI gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of Google, the Naval Research Laboratory, Yahoo! Research, Microsoft Research, and Videolectures.net, all of which made this competition possible. Congratulations to all the winners!

Join us for AIIDE-10!

The Sixth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment will be held at Stanford University, October 11–13, 2010. 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-10 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-10 website (www.aaai.org/aiide10) or via www.aiide.org. The late registration deadline is September 17. 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 AAAI website, or write to aiide10@aaai.org.

Join Us in San Francisco for AAAI-11 and IAAI-11!

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 August 7–11 in San Francisco, California, USA. Visitors to San Francisco will enjoy a world-class city with endless cultural and recreational opportunities. Plan a vacation around AAAI-11, as this is one you will not want to miss! The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, located at the foot of the Bay Bridge and only steps away from the Ferry Building, as well as numerous other well-known San Francisco attractions. Beyond San Francisco, visitors can explore the wine regions of California, the magnificent Pacific coastline, the Sierra Nevada mountains, and beautiful Monterey Bay, to name only a few possibilities. For more information, please visit www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com.

AAAI-11 welcomes submissions on mainstream AI topics as well as novel crosscutting work in related areas. Topics include but are not limited to the following: agent-based and multiagent systems, cognitive modeling and human interaction, commonsense reasoning, computer vision, constraint satisfaction, search, and optimization, evolutionary computation, game playing and interactive entertainment, information retrieval, integration, and extraction, knowledge acquisition and ontologies, knowledge representation and reasoning, machine learning and data mining, model-based systems, multidisciplinary ai, natural language processing, planning and scheduling, probabilistic reasoning, robotics, web and information

AAAI Member News

Ken Ford Receives NASA's Top Award

The National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) has awarded its highest honor, the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal, to Dr. Kenneth Ford, CEO and director of the Pensacola, Florida-based Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC). Ford was selected for this honor for his extraordinary work in significantly contributing to and furthering the mission of NASA.

The Distinguished Public Service Medal is the premier honor bestowed by NASA to civilian, non-federal government employees. It is reserved exclusively for those who display distinguished service, ability, and/or courage, and have personally made an exceptional contribution to NASA representing substantial progress to its mission. Ford has maintained a long and distinguished history of service with NASA and other space-related entities. Since 2007, Ford has served on the NASA Advisory Council (NAC) where he currently serves as chairman. From 1997–1999, Ford developed and directed NASA's Center of Excellence in Information Technology at the Ames Research Center in California and, in 1999, he was awarded the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal. From 2003-2009, Ford served as a Presidential appointee on the National Science Board. Ford also served several terms as an appointed member of the U.S. Air Force Science Advisory Board. Since 2007, Ford has served on the Board of Directors for Space Florida, Inc. to help the state carry out its mission is to strengthen Florida's position as the global leader in aerospace research, investment, exploration, and commerce.

Sarit Kraus Awarded Emet Prize

AAAI congratulates Sarit Kraut of Bar-Ilan University, who was the recipient of the 2010 Emet Prize in Exact Sciences, an annual prize given for excellence in academic and professional achievements that have far-reaching influence and significant contribution to society. The prize is sponsored by the A.M.N. Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Art and Culture in Israel , under the auspices of and in cooperation with the Prime Minister of Israel. The intention of the A.M.N. Foundation, through the award of the EMET Prizes, is to acknowledge those who view excellence as a way of life and the fulfillment of human potential as essential to creating a better world for future generations.

Judea Pearl Receives the 2010 Rumelhart Prize

The Cognitive Science Society has selected Judea Pearl of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to receive the 2010 Rumelhart Prize for his leading research in artificial intelligence and systems that reason plausibly from uncertain evidence. The David E. Rumelhart Prize is awarded annually to an individual or collaborative team making a significant, contemporary contribution to the theoretical foundations of human cognition, and is sponsored by the Robert J. Glushko and Pamela Samuelson Foundation. Pearl has been a key researcher in the application of probabilistic methods to the understanding of intelligent systems, whether natural or artificial. He has pioneered the development of graphical models, including a class of graphical models known as Bayesian networks, which can be used to represent and draw inferences from probabilistic knowledge in a highly transparent and computationally efficient way. A version of Bayesian network also forms the basis for modern methods of causal and counterfactual inferences.

2011 AAAI Spring Symposium Series

Call for Participation

AAAI is pleased to present the 2011 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday through Wednesday, March 21–23, 2011, at Stanford University. The titles of the eight symposia are:

- **AI and Health Communication**
  Nancy Green, Sara Rubinelli, and Donia Scott
  (www.uncg.edu/~nlgreen/aaai-sss11-aihc.html)

- **Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Design**
  Douglas H. Fisher and Mary Lou Maher
  (www.vuse.vanderbilt.edu/~dfisher/AI-Design-Sustainability.html)

- **AI for Business Agility**
  Knut Hinkelmann and Barbara Thönssen
  (www.fhnw.ch/iwi/ai4ba2011)

- **Computational Physiology**
  Mark Buller, Paul Cuddihy, and Finale Doshi-Velez
  (people.csail.mit.edu/finale/sss-11-cp

- Help Me Help You: Bridging the Gaps in Human-Agent Collaboration
  Rajiv Maheswaran, Nathan Schurr, and Pedro Szekely
  (www.isi.edu/~maheswar/hmhy2011.html)

- **Logical Formalizations of Commonsense Reasoning**
  Ernest Davis, Patrick Doherty, and Esra Erdem
  (commonsensereasoning.org/2011)

- **Multi-Robot Systems and Physical Data Structures**
  Dylan Shell and James Mclurkin
  (robots.cs.tamu.edu/aaai11ss_physical_data_structures)

- **Modeling Complex Adaptive Systems as if They Were Voting Processes**
  Arnie Urken
  (arnieu@email.arizona.edu)

Submissions for the symposia are due on October 8, 2010. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 12, 2010. Material to be included in the technical reports of the symposium must be received by January 21, 2011.

The complete Call for Participation is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss11.php. Registration information will be available by December 15, 2010.

Please contact AAAI at sss11@aaai.org with any questions.

systems. AAAI-11 will continue the highly successful special tracks program created several years ago. The call for papers for the main technical track and other tracks are available at www.aaai.org/aaai11.

In addition to the main technical program, AAA-11 will include the tutorial forum, workshop program, video competition, mobile robot program, student abstracts program, the AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium, and the second AAAI Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence Symposium, to name only a few of the highlights. For complete information on these programs, including Tutorial and Workshop Call for Proposals, please visit the AAAI-11 website or write to us at aaai11@aaai.org.

IAAI-11

The IAAI-11 conference 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-11 will consider papers in two tracks: (1) deployed application case studies and (2) emerging applications or methodologies. For more information and a full call for papers, please see www.aaai.org/iaai11.

Conference Organizers

The AAAI conference committee chair is Dieter Fox (University of Washington). The AAAI-11 program cochairs are Wolfram Burgard (University of Freiburg, Germany) and Dan Roth (University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign. The IAAI-11 conference chair is Daniel Shapiro (ISLE).

ICWSM-11 to be Collocated with IJCAI-11 in Barcelona, Spain!

The Fifth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held in in Barcelona, Spain in July 2011. 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 sci-

ence, linguistics, psychology, statistics, sociology, multimedia and semantic web technologies. A full Call for Papers will be available this fall at www.icwsm.org, and papers will be due in mid-January 2011. As in previous conferences, collections of social-media data will be provided by ICWSM-11 organizers to potential participants to encourage experimentation on common problems and datasets. For more information, please write to icwsm11@aaai.org.

AAAI Executive Council Nominations

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 eight candidates for councilor in the spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI members will vote in the late spring of 2011.

To submit a candidate's names for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, phone number, and email address to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; by fax to 650/321-4457; or by email to hamilton@aaai.org. 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, 2010.

AAAI Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The March 21, 2010 AAAI Executive Council meeting was held via teleconference

Important Deadlines for AAAI-11 / IAAI-11

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

December 1, 2010 – Paper Deadline: Authors register on the AAAI and IAAI web sites

February 1, 2011: IAAI Electronic papers due

February 3, 2011: AAAI Electronic abstracts due

February 8, 2011: AAAI Electronic papers due

March 26, 2011: IAAI Notification of acceptance or rejection

March 30 – April 1, 2011: AAAI Author feedback about initial reviews

April 15, 2011: AAAI Notification of acceptance or rejection

April 26, 2011: IAAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office

May 3, 2011: AAAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office

Attending: Henry Kautz, Eric Horvitz, Ted Senator, Carla Brodley, Claire Cardie, Tony Cohn, Dieter Fox, Amy Greenwald, Rao Kambhampati, Gal Kaminka, Mark Maybury, Sheila McIlraith, Alan Schultz, David Smith, Rich Sutton, Carol Hamilton

Not attending: Cynthia Breazeal, David Leake, Tuomas Sandholm, Yoav Shoham

The meeting commenced at 11:30 AM. After roll call was taken, President-Elect Henry Kautz welcomed everyone. Kautz noted the recent resignation of AAAI President Martha Pollack and briefly reviewed the current status of the AAAI presidency. He then asked Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator to explain the transition process in more depth, and to review the current resolution before the Council.

Presidential Transition

Senator noted that AAAI took measures to make the presidential transition comply with the AAAI bylaws after consulting with legal counsel. In addition, an effort was made to simplify the process as much as possible, and to keep the best interests of the Association in mind for the future. Briefly, in accordance with the bylaws, Kautz assumed the duties and responsibilities of the presidency upon the resignation of Pollack, and will assume the presidential office in July 2010, one year ahead of schedule. This will vacate the president-elect office early, so a new president-elect candidate will be placed on the spring 2010 ballot, and will assume that office in July 2010. Eric Horvitz, AAAI past president, will remain an extra year in office until 2012, instead of 2011, which will ensure the return to a normal two-year for all presidential offices in 2012. For the foreseeable future, the election of president-elect candidates will shift from odd years to even years.

In order to accomplish this plan, the Council was asked to endorse a formal resolution, which included the following provisions:

Resignation of Current President

Resolved, that Martha Pollack, the current President, resigned her position effective March 15, 2010, as a result of increased professional commitments to other activities and the Executive Council hereby accepts such resignation.

Resolved further, that the Executive Council commends Dr. Pollack for her dedicated service to AAAI and hereby authorizes and directs that the President-Elect and/or the Executive Director send a letter to Dr. Pollack communicating such commendation and

2010 AAAI Fall Symposium Series Registration

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence's 2010 Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 11–13 at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The titles of the eight symposia are as follows:

- **Cognitive and Metacognitive Educational Systems**
- **Commonsense Knowledge**
- **Complex Adaptive Systems: Resilience, Robustness, and Evolvability**
- **Computational Models of Narrative**
- **Dialog with Robots**
- **Manifold Learning and Its Applications**
- **Proactive Assistant Agents**
- **Quantum Informatics for Cognitive, Social, and Semantic Processes**

An informal reception will be held on Thursday, November 11. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Friday, November 12. 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. AAAI Technical Reports will be distributed to participants in each symposium, and will be added to the AAAI Digital Library after the symposium.

The final deadline for registration is October 15, 2010. For registration information, please contact AAAI at fss10@aaai.org or visit AAAI's web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss10.php.

A hotel room block has been reserved at the Westin. The cut-off date for reservations is October 10, 2010. Please call 1-888-627-7076 for further information, or reserve a room online via the URL previously mentioned.

Please contact AAAI at fss10@aaai.org with any questions.

thanking her for all of her efforts on behalf of AAAI.

President-Elect to Perform Duties of President

Resolved further, that pursuant to Article X, Section 6 of AAAI's Bylaws, President-Elect Henry Kautz shall, effective March 15, 2010, perform the duties of President until the Executive Council fills the office of President and, when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions of such office.

Resolved further, that the President-Elect and the Executive Director are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions and execute any and all documents necessary to effect the foregoing resolution.

Shifting of Terms of Office

Resolved, as a result of the resignation of Martha Pollack from the office of President, the Executive Council wishes to take such action as are in the best interests of AAAI to provide for a smooth transition in the various offices of the corporation.

Resolved further, without any change, the present terms of the offices of President, President-Elect, and Past-President would end in or about early July, 2011 which would require either the appointment of a new President without any adequate preparation for such office or would require the immediate elevation of the President-Elect who would then be forced to serve a shortened term.

Resolved further, that the Executive Council, after careful analysis and exploration of the alternatives, has determined that it is in the best interests of AAAI to shift the terms of office for the President-Elect, President, and Past-President so that a new, two-year term begins at the annual meeting of the members in early July, 2010 and expires at the annual meeting of the members in early July, 2012.

Resolved further, that the Executive Council hereby shifts the terms of office for the President-Elect, President, and Past-President so that a new, two-year term begins at the annual meeting of the members in early July, 2010 and expires at the annual meeting of the members in early July, 2012 and that, until further action of the Execu-

tive Council, the two-year terms for such offices shall begin at the annual meeting of members in early July of even numbered years.

Appointment of Officers Effective at Annual Meeting of Members

Resolved, that effective at the annual meeting of members on July 12, 2010, the following people are appointed to serve in the following offices for the term beginning July 12, 2010 and ending at the annual members meeting in early July, 2012:

Office	*Officer*
President	Henry Kautz
Past-President	Eric Horvitz

Resolved further, that the appointment of Eric Horvitz as Past-President for the term in the preceding resolution will result in Dr. Horvitz serving in such office for a total period of three years, which total period is in excess of the two-year term contemplated by Article X, Section 2 of the Bylaws, that such extended term is necessitated by the sudden and unexpected resignation of Martha Pollack as President and the shifting of the terms for the officers of President, President-Elect and Past-President, and that the members shall be requested to approve of, consent to and ratify this action when they vote by ballot prior to the annual meeting of the members on July 12, 2010.

New President-Elect

Resolved, that the Executive Council hereby directs the Nominating Committee to nominate one or more persons for the position of President-Elect to be voted on by the members by ballot prior to the annual meeting of members on July 12, 2010.

The Executive Council unanimously approved the acceptance of all provisions in this resolution.

To complete the transition and adoption of the resolution outlined above, the AAAI members will be asked to ratify a similar resolution that will be circulated with the spring 2010 ballot, and will include the following provisions:

Resolved, that Martha Pollack, the current President, resigned her position effective March 15, 2010, as a result of increased professional commit-

Michael L. Littman, Padhraic Smyth, and Bernhard Nebel receive their Fellows Certificates at the 2010 Fellows Dinner. Pictured with the honorees are AAAI President Henry Kautz (left) and/or Past-President Eric Horvitz (right).

ments to other activities and the Executive Council hereby accepts such resignation.

Resolved further, that the Executive Council, after careful analysis and exploration of possible courses of action in response to the sudden and unexpected resignation of Martha Pollack, the President of AAAI, determined that it was and is in the best interests of AAAI to shift the terms of office for the President-Elect, President, and Past-President so that a new, two-year term begins at the annual meeting of the members in early July, 2010 and expires at the annual meeting of the members in early July, 2012 and took action to shift those terms of office at its meeting on or about March 21, 2010.

Resolved further, that at its March 21, 2010 meeting, the Executive Council, by a vote that exceeded a two-thirds vote, appointed the President-Elect,

Henry Kautz to serve as President from July 12, 2010 through the annual meeting of the members in or about July, 2012 and appointed the present Past-President, Eric Horvitz as Past-President, for that same term.

Resolved further, as a result of the actions taken by the Executive Council in response to the sudden and unexpected resignation of Martha Pollack as President of AAAI, Eric Horvitz shall end up serving a total of three years in the office of Past-President, which total period is in excess of the two-year term contemplated by Article X, Section 2 of the Bylaws.

Resolved further, that the members hereby approve of, consent to and ratify the actions taken by the Executive Council in shifting the terms of office for the President-Elect, President, and Past President and in appointing Henry Kautz and Eric Horvitz to serve as

President and Past-President, respectively, from July 12, 2010 through the annual meeting of the members in or about early July, 2012.

During a follow-up discussion, the Council agreed that a brief write-up about the presidential transition in the AI Magazine would be appropriate, including a note from Martha Pollack regarding her resignation. The Nominating Committee will also review the bylaws and determine if any additional flexibility needs to be introduced in order to deal more easily with a resignation in the future.

Membership Committee Proposal

Membership committee cochairs Gal Kaminka and Mark Maybury reviewed their research on the addition of a new AAAI membership category, as well as other options for boosting membership attraction and retention. Kaminka noted that both ACM and IEEE have senior member grades, and that senior members make up 25 percent of the ACM membership. Although the introduction of a similar category for AAAI would not increase revenue, it could serve to encourage active membership, and create better loyalty and retention of members by providing an honorary status that would be visible, particularly outside of academia. In order to add such a category of membership, several issues need to be addressed, including the development of a formal policy describing the membership status, modification of the bylaws, and a proposal for how eligibility would be determined and awarded. It was suggested that status would be concurred by the Awards Committee, and that the initial implementation would be gradual, taking into account other factors beside length of continuous membership, such as service to the community. Kaminka and Maybury will develop a formal proposal, which will be presented and discussed at the summer 2010 meeting.

Several members of the Council noted that the senior member category may help with retention, but that new memberships are equally important. To address this issue, Kaminka and Maybury will propose a program, whereby professors can sign up groups of students for membership. It is hoped that these students would then renew their memberships at each conference.

In addition to modifications to the membership forms to implement the programs described above, staff will also add the option for a 3- or 5-year platinum option on the conference registration form in 2012.

Social Computing

Following up on a list of social computing issues formulated by Martha Pollack, Sheila McIlraith and David Smith were asked to lead a discussion during the Council meeting. Some of the topics included the establishment of a Wikipedia team; a better Facebook presence for AAAI; a YouTube channel, and a community blog. The Council discussion was a precursor to the establishment of a more formal task force to explore these issues.

One idea that was discussed was to set up a new Wikipedia site on AI, which would be managed by a team of volunteers to edit articles. The AAAI membership would be encouraged to volunteer, and a central registry of volunteers would be established. The Wikipedia page could link back to AI Topics. However, the site would need some oversight, and Council members suggested that perhaps just encouraging members, particularly student members, to take an active role in keeping the current Wikipedia AI site up to date and accurate would be a better use of resources, as it is impossible to control Wikipedia in any central manner. Recognition of these volunteer efforts could be made in a more formal way through a public service award for accurately representing AI on Wikipedia. An article in AI Magazine announcing this effort, encouraging participation, and describing the award would launch this campaign.

The Council agreed that there should be a dynamic relationship between AI Topics and Wikipedia, each referring readers to the other. In addition, because AI Topics offers several things that Wikipedia does not, it is important to increase its visibility through Wikipedia and other related sites.

The Council also agreed that it is the responsibility of AAAI to ensure that the information being communicated through Wikipedia be as accurate as possible, and that they should influence the content in a proactive way. Several action items were listed, including: establish a campaign to enlist students' help in updating Wikipedia pages, and the associated awards or recognition in the *AI Magazine;* explore the possibility of a panel at the 2010 or 2011 conference describing this campaign; consider a project model for theory pages; establish an AI on the Web feature in *AI Magazine,* mentioning useful contributions and soliciting contributions for topics with gaps in them; and investigate migration of information from Wikipedia to AI Topics.

Several other social computing topics were touched on during the follow-up discussion. Eric Horvitz reminded the Council that he had established a AAAI Facebook page last year, and that it was in need of volunteer or staff assistance to revitalize it. Even with no recent updates, it still gets a lot of visitors and would be an excellent way to reinforce information about upcoming AAAI programs and events. It could also be used to link to AI Topics, or set up blogs for conferences.

In an effort to get more AAAI videos on the web, Carol Hamilton will arrange for the invited talks and best paper lectures at AAAI to be videotaped by VideoLectures and posted on their site. AAAI will retain ownership of all videos and will maintain an archival copy. The posting of AAAI videos on VideoLectures will not preclude AAAI from posting them at some later date on their own site.

Hamilton will also explore the possibility of establishing a blog for Fellows, Councilors or other similar groups, as well as conference and symposia blogs. This could be a formal role assigned to a member of the organizing committee for an event so that they receive the proper recognition.

A discussion on STEM Education in Public Schools was tabled for a later date. Henry Kautz thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.