# AAAI News

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

## Turing Centenary Events at AAAI-12!

A series of special events celebrating the Alan M. Turing Centenary, including the 2012 Inaugural AAAI Turing Lecture by Christos Papadimitriou (University of California, Berkeley) and a special performance of "Hello Hi There" will be featured at AAAI-12 in Toronto. Please see www.aaai.org/aaai12 for details.

## Join us July 22-23 for AAAI and Turing Centenary Events in Toronto!

The Twenty-Sixth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-12) and the Twenty-Fourth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-12) will be held in Toronto, Canada at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, July 22-23, 2012.

The AAAI technical program will consist of the main technical track and four special tracks on AI and the Web, Cognitive Robotics (new!), Computational Sustainability and AI, and Robotics (new!), as well as a Best Paper Track, highlighting significant AI results presented at our sister conferences in the past two years. The program will also feature the keynote Presidential Address "Revisiting the Dream," by Henry Kautz, a joint IAAI / AAAI invited talk by Tom Gruber, and other invited talks by Regina Barzilay (CSAIL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Ross King (Aberystwyth University), Josh Tenenbaum (Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT), Sebastian Thrun (Google / Stanford University), and Luis von Ahn (Carnegie Mellon University).

The third iteration of the AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances on AI will be collocated with AAAI (details follow), and the AAAI program will also include 12 half-day tutorials, 10 workshops, the AAAI Robotics Program, AAAI Poker Competition, the Video Competition, Student Abstract Posters, the AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium, and more!

Hotel information is available on the AAAI-12 conference web site at www.aaai.org/aaai12; the cut-off to qualify for the discounted AAAI rate is June 22, 2012. A special student rate has also been arranged at a local university. Information about this will be sent directly to all student registrants, or please inquire by writing to aaai12@aaai.org. Conference registration information and forms will be available in late March. The early registration deadline is May 25, 2012.

### Toronto

Toronto provides a perfect venue for the conference, with its thriving film and theater culture, as well as a host of museums and sight-seeing opportunities. The AAAI-12 banquet will be held at the CN Tower, a Toronto landmark and the world's tallest tower. The Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, is located in the financial and entertainment districts, and connected to PATH, a 16-mile underground network of shops and services. For more information, please visit www.seetorontonow.com!

## AAAI-12 Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Scholarship Program for 2012, which is sponsored by the AI Journal. The Student Scholar Program provides partial travel support for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the conference program or letters of recommendation from their faculty advisor; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by May 1, 2012. In addition, repeat scholarship applicants must have fulfilled the volunteer and reporting requirements for previous awards. In the event that scholarship applications exceed available funds, preference will be given to students who have an accepted technical paper, and then to students who are actively participating in the conference in some way. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply.

After the conference, an expense report will be required to account for the funds awarded. For further information about the Scholarship Program, or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at scholarships12@aaai.org.

The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in Toronto. In 2012, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer

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## AAAI-12 Tutorial Forum

The AAAI-12 Tutorial Forum will take place Sunday and Monday, July 22-23 just prior to the main conference. Attendance at the tutorials is included in the technical program registration. The following schedule promises a dynamic program! For more details, please visit the AAAI-12 website.

Sunday, July 22, 2012
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

*SA1:* Agentpalooza: Rapid Creation and Deployment of Embodied Conversational Agents (Andrew Olney, Patrick Hays, Whitney Cade)

*SA2:* Trading Agents (Michael Wellman, Amy Greenwald)

*SA3:* Traffic Management and AI (Biplav Srivastava, Anand Ranganathan)

Sunday, July 22, 2012
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

*SP1:* Collective Intelligence (Haym Hirsh)

*SP2:* Probabilistic Matrix and Tensor Block Models for Two-Way and Multiway Network Modeling (Zenglin Xu, Alan Qi)

*SP3:* Probabilistic Planning with Markov Decision Processes (Mausam, Andrey Kolobov)

Monday, July 23, 2012
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

*MA1:* A Game Theoretic Approach to Social Networks (Ramasuri Narayanam, Amit A. Nanavati)

*MA2:* Heuristic Search: The Basics and Beyond (Jordan Thayer, Wheeler Ruml)

*MA3:* Search-Based Planning: Toward High Dimensionality and Differential Constraints (Mihail Pivtoraiko, Maxim Likhachev, Sven Koenig)

Monday, July 23, 2012
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

*MP1:* Entity Resolution: Theory, Practice and Open Challenges (Lise Getoor, Ashwin Machanavajjhala)

*MP2:* Text Mining from User Generated Content (Ronen Feldman, Lyle Ungar)

*MP3:* Theory and Practice of Answer Set Programming (Esra Erdem, Joohyung Lee, Yuliya Lierler)

*Please see www.aaai.org/aaai12 for the final schedule.*

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 are available. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at volunteer12@aaai.org. The deadline for volunteer applications is May 1, 2012.

## Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI)

The third AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI) will be held in conjunction with AAAI-12 in Toronto. The EAAI symposium provides a venue for researchers and educators to discuss pedagogical issues and share resources related to teaching AI and using AI in education across a variety of curricular levels (K–12 through postgraduate training), with an emphasis on undergraduate and graduate teaching and learning.

The EAAI symposium comprises several components, including a program of high-quality refereed papers and posters; a Model AI Assignments session highlighting innovative, ready-to-adopt materials; a workshop for mentoring new faculty, instructors, and graduate students on teaching; an Educational Video Track within the AAAI-12 Video program; and a Student/Educator Track within the AAAI-12 Robotics Program. For more information about the symposium, please visit the AAAI-12 website or write to us at aaai12@aaai.org.

## Showcase Your Video at AAAI-12!

*Submission Deadline:* April 2012.

The organizers of the sixth annual AAAI Video Competition are currently soliciting your submission 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 AAAI-12, and 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 consult the AAAI-12 conference website.

## Eighth Annual Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-12)

Please plan to join us for the Eighth Annual AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment, to be held at Stanford University in Stanford, California, October 8–12, 2012. AIIDE-12 is intended

to be the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. 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 2012 will include invited speaker sessions, paper presentation sessions, a poster session, and a demonstration session. Researchers and developers are invited to share insights and cutting-edge results from a wide range of AI-related problems and encouraged to present a) results from core AI research areas applicable to interactive digital entertainment and b) AI approaches developed and fielded in commercial systems.

The program has also been expanded to include a workshop program and doctoral consortium, which will be held on the first two days of the conference, October 8–9. More details will be forthcoming on these programs at the AIIDE website.

The complete call for papers and other information is available at aiide.org.

## 2012 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The 2012 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 2–4, at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The titles of the eight symposia are

- AI for Gerontechnology
- Artificial Intelligence of Humor
- Discovery Informatics: The Role of AI Research in Innovating Scientific Processes
- Machine Aggregation of Human Judgment
- Machine Learning for Biomedical Literature Analysis and Text Retrieval
- Robots Learning Interactively from Human Teachers
- Social Networks and Social Contagion

Please watch the 2012 Fall Symposium Series website (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss12.php) for the full

## AAAI-12 Workshop Program

*Submission Deadline:* Friday, March 30, 2012

AAAI invites your participation in the AAAI-12 Workshop Program, to be held Sunday and Monday, July 22-23, 2012. The program includes the following ten workshops:

*W1:* Activity Context Representation: Techniques and Languages
*Organizers:* Lokendra Shastri, James "Bo" Begole, Tim Finin, Henry Kautz, and Vikas Agrawal (Sunday and Monday, July 22–23)

*W2:* AI for Data Center Management and Cloud Computing
*Organizers:* Barry O'Sullivan and Donagh Buckley (Sunday, July 22)

*W3:* Cognitive Robotics
*Organizers:* Wolfram Burgard, Kurt Konolige, Maurice Pagnucco, and Stavros Vassos (Sunday and Monday, July 22–23)

*W4:* Grounding Language for Physical Systems
*Organizers:* Cynthia Matuszek, Stefanie Tellex, Dieter Fox, and Luke Zettlemoyer (Monday, July 23)

*W5:* Human Computation
*Organizers:* Yiling Chen, Luis von Ahn, Panagiotis G. Ipeirotis, Edith Law, and Haoqi Zhang (Monday, July 23)

*W6:* Intelligent Techniques for Web Personalization and Recommendation
*Organizers:* Dietmar Jannach, Sarabjot Singh Anand, Bamshad Mobasher, and Alfred Kobsa (Sunday, July 22)

*W7:* Multiagent Pathfinding
*Organizers:* Ariel Felner, Nathan Sturtevant, Kostas Bekris, and Roni Stern (Sunday, July 22)

*W8:* Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning
*Organizers:* Artur d'Avila Garcez, Pascal Hitzler, and Luis C. Lamb (Monday, July 23)

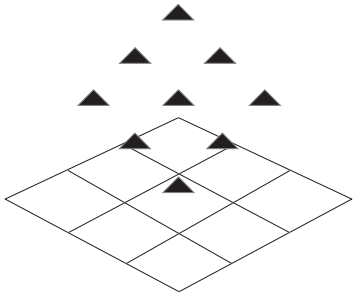
*W9:* Problem Solving Using Classical Planners
*Organizers:* Héctor Palacios, Jorge Baier, and Patrik Haslum (Sunday, July 22)

*W10:* Semantic Cities
*Organizers:* Biplav Srivastava, Freddy Lecue, and Anupam Joshi (Monday, July 23)

Submission requirements vary for each workshop. For complete descriptions and submission information about each of the workshops, please see www.aaai.org/Workshops/2012.

## AAAI Executive Council Elections

The AAAI Ballot (or a link to an electronic version) will be mailed to all regular AAAI members in the spring. 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 to AAAI no later than June 8. The Annual Business meeting for AAAI will be held this summer during AAAI-12 in Toronto. The exact day and time will be announced at the time of the spring election, and will be listed in the summer issue of the magazine and the conference program.



## 2013 AAAI Spring Symposium Series

AAAI is currently accepting proposals for the 2013 Spring Symposium Series, to be held at Stanford University, California, March 25–27, 2013.

Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for the 2013 Spring Symposium Series. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Committee (Chair: Matthew E. Taylor, Lafayette College; Cochair: Gita Sukthankar, University of Central Florida; Alan Schultz, Naval Research Laboratory; and Kate Larson, University of Waterloo).

Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than April 20, 2012. The Call for Proposals can be found at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss13 .php.

Please submit your symposium proposals by electronic mail (no postal submissions), and inquiries concerning symposia, to Matt Taylor, Lafayette College, taylorm@ lafayette.edu.

## AAAI Seventh Annual Computer Poker Competition

*Register by May 1, 2012*

The AAAI Computer Poker Competition showcases state-of-the-art intelligent programs for playing poker. This is the premiere venue for demonstrating poker-playing software systems, as exemplified by the previous years' competitions. The 2011 competition featured 39 poker-playing programs submitted from 16 countries. The poker variant considered in the 2012 competition will be Texas Hold'em poker. The competition will build on the success of the previous years' two-player (heads-up) competitions, with both limit and no-limit betting structures, and last year's three-player limit competition.

Please see the AAAI-12 conference website for complete information. For more information about the computer poker competition, contact Jonathan Rubin and Eric Jackson (chair@computerpokercompetition.org).

Call for Participation, available in late March. The deadline for submissions is May 25, 2012.

## AI in the News

Check out the latest news stories that mention AI every week at the AITopics home page: www.aaai.org/aitopics (select AI in the News).

To subscribe to the mailing list for periodic alerts about AI in the News, please select AI-Alert in the dropdown menu which is located at www.aaai.org/cgi-dada/mail.cgi.

If your email address changes, please be sure to follow the instructions for unsubscribing at your old address and subscribing at your new address for each of these lists.

## Support AAAI Programs with Your Special Donation

AAAI wishes to thank you for your ongoing support 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, and to nurture new research and innovation through our many conferences, workshops, and symposia.

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 and click on "Gifts."

Thank you for your support of AAAI and its programs.

## 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, choose AAAI-Members in the dropdown, enter your email address, and select "subscribe."

The announcements feature is one of the many benefits of your membership. We encourage you to use it!

# AAAI Member News

## Alan Bundy Honored

Alan Bundy has been made Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE). Bundy is Professor of Automated Reasoning at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh and is being honored for his services to computing science. He is also a member of the Scottish Science Advisory Committee, which advises the Scottish Government on scientific matters, a member of the UK Computing Research Committee, and Vice President and Trustee of the British Computer Society, with special responsibility for the Academy of Computing.

## Ken Ford Named to Defense Science Board

Kenneth M. Ford, director and chief executive officer of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, has been named by the US Department of Defense to serve on its prestigious Defense Science Board.

Retired Air Force General Lester L. Lyles and Vice Chair of the Defense Science Board commented that "leadership in defense requires a constant infusion of new ideas and access to state of the art knowledge on scientific and technical matters and Ken Ford brings those desired qualities to this board."

The Defense Science Board was established in 1956 as a standing committee that advises top Pentagon officials on the "needs and opportunities presented by new scientific knowledge for radically new weapons systems." Over time, the board has expanded its purview to also develop and strengthen the Department of Defense's research and development strategies for the 21st century. Reporting directly to the US Secretary of Defense, the 32-member Defense Science Board is comprised of nationally recognized leaders and experts selected on the basis of their preeminence in the fields of science, technology and its application to military operations, research, engineering, manufacturing, and acquisition process.

## Judea Pearl Wins Harvey Prize

Judea Pearl, Professor of Computer Science at the University of California, Los Angeles, is a winner of the Technion's 2011 Harvey Prize in Science and Technology. Pearl was awarded the prize in recognition of his foundational work that has touched a multitude of spheres of modern life. His wide-ranging and keen research laid the theoretical foundations for knowledge representation and reasoning in computer science. His theories for inference under uncertainty, and most notably the Bayesian network approach, have profoundly influenced diverse fields such as artificial intelligence, statistics, philosophy, health, economics, social sciences, and cognitive sciences.

First awarded in 1972, Technion's prestigious Harvey Prize was created as a bridge of goodwill between Israel and the nations of the world.

*AAAI congratulates Bundy, Ford, and Pearl on these honors!*

# Please Join Us for ICWSM-12!

The Sixth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held in Dublin, Ireland, June 4-8. This interdisciplinary conference brings together researchers from the disciplines of computer science, linguistics, communication, and the social sciences. The broad goal of ICWSM is to increase understanding of social media in all its incarnations.

For ICWSM-12, in addition to the usual program of contributed technical talks, invited presentations, the main conference will include a selection of keynote talks from prominent social scientists and technologists, including Andrew Tomkins (Engineering Director, Google) and Lada Adamic (University of Michigan). Building on the success of the first workshops program in 2011 and the regular tutorials day, ICWSM-12 will also hold a workshops and tutorials day just before the main conference on June 4.

The workshop program has expanded to include:

Workshop on Social Media Visualization

*Organizers:* Daniel Archambault (University College Dublin, Ireland), Eser Kandogan (IBM Research, USA), and Martin Harrigan (University College Dublin, Ireland). (*Website:* socmedvis.ucd.ie)

Workshop on Real-Time Analysis and Mining of Social Streams

*Organizers:* Arkaitz Zubiaga (City University of New York, USA), Damiano Spina (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain), Maarten De Rijke (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Markus Strohmaier (Graz University of Technology, Austria), and Mor Naaman (Rutgers University, USA). (*Website:* www.ramss.ws)

When the City Meets the Citizen Workshop

*Organizers:* Elizabeth Daly (IBM Research, Dublin, Ireland), Giusy Di Lorenzo (IBM Research, Dublin, Ireland), Daniele Quercia (University of Cambridge, UK), and Michael Muller (IBM Research, Cambridge, USA). (*Website:* bit.ly/wcmcw)

Workshop on the Potential of Social Media Tools and Data for Journalists in the News Media Industry

*Organizers:* Cosmin Cabulea (Deutsche Welle, Germany), Alejandro Jaimes (Yahoo! Research, Spain), Jonathon Hare (University of Southampton, UK), Jochen Spangenberg (Deutsche Welle, Germany), and Dominik Frey (Südwestrundfunk, Germany). (*Website:* www.arcomem.eu/icwsm-2012-workshop)

## Registration

Registration information will be available at the ICWSM-12 website in late March. The early registration deadline is April 13, and the late registration deadline is May 4. For full details about the conference program, please visit the ICWSM-12 website (icwsm.org) or write to icwsm12@aaai.org.