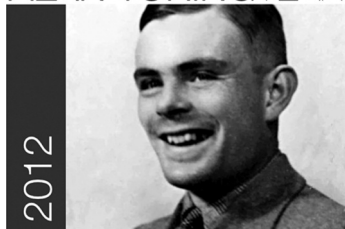


ALAN TURING YEAR



## Turing Centenary Events at AAAI-12!

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

## Join Us in Toronto for the Worldwide Turing Celebration!

We hope you are planning to join us for AAAI-12, and collocated events IAAI-12 and EAAI-12, in Toronto, July 22-26, 2012. The AAAI-12 technical program will kick off with the opening reception in the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel on the evening of Monday, July 23, followed by the presentation of the annual AI Video Competition Awards. On Tuesday morning, July 24, the program chairs will welcome attendees, and conference and AAAI awards will be presented. The awards ceremony will be followed by the AAAI Presidential Address by Henry Kautz and then by the first of several Turing Centenary special events.

### Turing Events

AAAI is delighted to announce that the winner of the 2011 Alan Turing Award, Judea Pearl, will deliver his award lecture at AAAI-12 in Toronto. Judea Pearl, a professor of computer science at the University of California, Los Angeles, was recently named the recipient of the 2011 ACM A. M. Tur-

ing Award for fundamental contributions to artificial intelligence through the development of a calculus for probabilistic and causal reasoning. Pearl has chosen AAAI-12 as the venue to deliver his Turing Award Lecture on Tuesday, July 24. This lecture, entitled "The Mechanization of Causal Inference: A 'Mini Turing Test' and Beyond" is open to all conference participants and ACM members.

To celebrate the centenary of Alan Turing's birth, AAAI is also pleased to announce the first AAAI Turing Lecture to be held at AAAI 2012. The lecture celebrates someone who has made significant practical or theoretical contributions to Alan Turing's vision of building artificial intelligence. Christos Papadimitriou (University of California, Berkeley) will deliver the inaugural lecture on "The Origin of Computable Numbers: A Tale of Two Classics" on Wednesday, July 25.

Additional Turing events are planned. Please consult [www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2012/aaai12turing.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2012/aaai12turing.php) for more information.

### Invited Talks

The AAAI-12 program will also feature invited talks by Regina Barzilay (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Ross King (University of Manchester, UK), Josh Tenenbaum (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and Luis von Ahn (Carnegie Mellon University). The recipient of the 2012 Robert S. Englemore Memorial Award, Steven Minton (InferLink Corporation), will deliver his lecture, "Building AI: Our Shared Enterprise," during IAAI-12, as

will Sebastian Thrun (Stanford University/Google), who will speak on "Recent Progress on Self-Driving Cars."

### Technical Program

The AAAI-12 technical program will include 294 full paper presentations (130 oral and poster and 164 poster only), representing 13 areas of research, including the special tracks Artificial Intelligence and the Web, Cognitive Systems, Computational Sustainability and Artificial Intelligence, and Robotics. In 2012 the technical poster sessions will be integrated into the technical sessions each day of the technical program. An additional conference-wide poster session will feature student abstracts, doctoral consortium abstracts, and poker competition posters.

The IAAI-12 technical program will feature talks on eight award-winning deployed AI applications and 15 emerging applications.

### Other Programs

The week is filled with a host of other programs, including the AI Video Competition, the AI Poker Competition, the new AI and Robotics Multimedia Fair, and an extensive tutorial and workshop program.

### New! Subarea Spotlights Track

AAAI-12 has also added a new track on Subarea Spotlights. Talks will be presented in the following three categories.

*What's hot in ...* talks, summarizing the state of the art in a particular area. Talks will explain the main research

# AAAI News

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

## 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 Multi-way 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](http://www.aaai.org/aaai12) for the final schedule.

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. EAAI-12 will feature an invited talk by Andrew Ng (Stanford University and Coursera) titled “ml-class.org: Teaching Machine Learning to 100,000 Students,” a series of technical papers and posters, and a special session on Model AI Assignments suitable for use in a variety of class settings.

### New! AI and Robotics Multimedia Fair

AAAI is pleased to present the inaugural AI and Robotics Multimedia Fair at AAAI-12. The program will consist of contributions to be presented as an illustration of the combination of AI and Robotics. The goal is twofold: for researchers and developers to showcase how they view the use or need of AI techniques in robotics systems; and for AI researchers to understand how their interests can reach out to robotics platforms. Three types of participation will be considered: robot demonstrations; videos; and posters. The posters will be displayed throughout the conference. The videos and robot demonstrations will be available during selected times. For further information, please see the AAAI-12 website.

### Registration

Registration for AAAI-12, IAAI-12, and EAAI-12 is included in one joint fee. Workshops and the banquet require an additional fee. For complete conference program and registration information, please visit [www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai12.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai12.php).

### Hotel

AAAI has reserved a block of rooms at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel. Please see [www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2012/aaai12hotel.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2012/aaai12hotel.php) for further information on how to reserve your room. To qualify for the discounted rate, your reservation must be completed no later than Friday, June 22, 2012.

We hope to see you in Toronto!

trends of the last 5–10 years. *Best-paper* talks, from a broad cross-section of area conferences, will highlight recent strong research results in each area. Finally, *Challenges in ...* talks, will summarize important challenges in a particular area. Talks will outline a vision on where the area should evolve.

For more information about the line-up of speakers representing more

than ten areas of research, please see [www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2012/aaai12spotlight.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2012/aaai12spotlight.php).

### Third AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence

The third AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI) will provide a venue for



### In Memoriam: David L. Waltz

AAAI notes with deep sadness the passing of David L. Waltz, Director, Center for Computational Learning Systems, Columbia University, who was a pioneer in the field of artificial intelligence. Waltz served as AAAI President from 1997 to 1999, and is a Fellow of AAAI and ACM (Association for Computing Machinery), a Senior Member of IEEE (Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers), and former Chairman of ACM SIGART (Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence). Prior to joining CCLS, he was President of the NEC Research Institute in Princeton, and from 1984-1993 was Director of Advanced Information Systems at Thinking Machines Corporation and Professor of Computer Science at Brandeis University. He was a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois (CSL and ECE Department) for 11 years. Waltz received all of his degrees from MIT, including his Ph.D. for work at the MIT AI Lab. His thesis on computer vision originated the field of constraint propagation, and with Craig Stanfill, he originated the field of memory-based reasoning branch of CBR (Case-Based Reasoning). His research interests included machine learning applications to the electric power grid, massively parallel information retrieval, data mining, learning and automatic classification with applications protein structure prediction, and natural language processing. A celebration of his life was held in the spring, and a symposium in his honor is scheduled for September 23 at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts.

### AAAI Annual Business Meeting

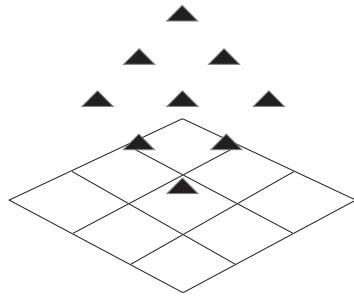
The annual business meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence will be held at 12:45 PM, Monday, July 23, 2012 in the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

during AAAI-12. All AAAI members are welcome.

### Executive Council Nominations

Every year four new councilors are elected to serve three-year terms on

the AAAI Executive Council. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate eight candidates for councilor in the spring. In addition to members' rec-



## 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, 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
- \* Human Control of Bio-Inspired Swarms
- \* Information Retrieval and Knowledge Discovery in Biomedical Text
- \* Machine Aggregation of Human Judgment
- \* Robots Learning Interactively from Human Teachers
- \* Social Networks and Social Contagion

Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants each. In addition to invited participants, a limited number of other interested parties will be able to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. Complete registration and hotel information will be available in August at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss12.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss12.php). Invited participants must register by September 14, and the final registration deadline is October 12.

The deadline for hotel reservations at the Westin is 5:00 PM EDT, October 10, 2012. The discounted room rate of \$174.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date. Contact information for the Westin will be included in the registration materials.

## AAAI 2013 Spring Symposium Series

The 2013 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 25-27, 2013 at Stanford University. The Call for Participation will be available in August on the AAAI web site ([www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss13.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss13.php)). Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 4, 2012. For more information, please contact Symposium Chair, Matt Taylor, at [taylorml@lafayette.edu](mailto:taylorml@lafayette.edu) or AAAI at [sss13@aaai.org](mailto:sss13@aaai.org). A preliminary list of symposia will be available at the SSS-13 website in July.

ommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI members will vote in the late spring of 2013.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, phone number, and email address to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 2275 East Bayshore Road, Suite 160, Palo Alto, CA 94303, USA; by fax to 650/321-4457; or by email to [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto: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, 2012.

## Support AAAI Open Access

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

## Executive Council Meeting Minutes

*San Francisco, California,  
August 8, 2011*

*Attending:* Henry Kautz, Manuela Veloso, Eric Horvitz, Ted Senator, Carla Brodley (via teleconference), Tony Cohn, Amy Greenwald (via teleconference), Subbarao Kambhampati, Kate Larson (via teleconference), David Leake, Mark Maybury (via teleconference), Tuomas Sandholm, Jonathan Schaeffer, Reid Smith, Alan Schultz (via teleconference), Toby Walsh, Mike Wooldridge, Makoto Yokoo, Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton.

*Not Attending:* Claire Cardie, Dieter Fox, Maria Fox, Haym Hirsh, Adele Howe, Gal Kaminka, Shlomo Zilberstein.



## AAAI Member News

### Judea Pearl Awarded 2011 ACM A.M. Turing Award

ACM has named Judea Pearl of the University of California, Los Angeles the winner of the 2011 ACM A.M. Turing Award for innovations that enabled remarkable advances in the partnership between humans and machines that is the foundation of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Pearl pioneered developments in probabilistic and causal reasoning and their application to a broad range of problems and challenges. He created a computational foundation for processing information under uncertainty, a core problem faced by intelligent systems. He also developed graphical methods and symbolic calculus that enable machines to reason about actions and observations, and to assess cause-effect relationships from empirical findings. His work serves as the standard method for handling uncertainty in computer systems, with applications ranging from medical diagnosis, homeland security and genetic counseling to natural language understanding and mapping gene expression data. His influence extends beyond artificial intelligence and even computer science, to human reasoning and the philosophy of science. The ACM A.M. Turing Award, widely considered the “Nobel Prize in Computing,” carries a \$250,000 prize, with financial support provided by Intel Corporation and Google Inc. It is named for the British mathematician Alan M. Turing, whose 100th anniversary is being celebrated worldwide in 2012.

Pearl is a member of AAAI and an AAAI Fellow and will deliver the Turing Lecture at AAAI-12 in Toronto.

### Alan Bundy Elected Fellow of Royal Society

The Royal Society recently announced the election of Alan Richard Bundy as a Fellow of the Royal Society, the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. Alan Bundy has made world-leading contributions to both automated reasoning and the automated formation and evolution of representations of knowledge. He has developed novel techniques with improved efficiency, range and behaviour. His work on automated reasoning has found application in hardware and software systems development, where it has increased the level of automation. It has decreased the skill level and development time required to verify computer programs and has been taken up by industry. His work on representation evolution facilitates communication between agencies with different representations of related knowledge.

Bundy is Professor of Automated Reasoning at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh. 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.

### ACM Announces ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award

Stephanie Forrest (University of New Mexico) has been named the recipient of the 2011 ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award for her fundamental, paradigm-changing contributions to computer science and biological sciences, most notably bringing together models of immune systems, automated diversity, and network epidemiology, with significant impact on real computer and biological systems research and practice. Forrest has contributed significantly to two areas: cyber security and biology. Her original contributions have introduced entirely new ways of looking at problems and solutions in these fields, in part by making explicit linkages between them. She was vice president of research and cochair of the Science Board at the Santa Fe Institute, and a researcher with the Center for Nonlinear Studies at Los Alamos National Laboratory. She has also been active with the artificial life community. Her work is truly interdisciplinary and has been recognized from both computer scientists and biologists.



## AAAI Returns to the Pacific Northwest for AAAI-13!

Please mark your calendars now for the Twenty-Seventh AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-13) and the Twenty-Fifth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-13), which will be held in the Greater Seattle area, July 14-18, at the beautiful new Hyatt Regency Conference Center in Bellevue, Washington. Exciting plans are underway to coordinate with local University of Washington, Microsoft, and other members to make this a memorable event! Updates will be available at [www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai13.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai13.php) this summer.

making sure that it is in line with the AAAI financial Policy; the Council and Officers focus on programs and budget. To reduce costs, the AAAI portfolio was transferred to a group of Vanguard mutual funds several years ago.

### Awards, Fellows, and Nominating

Past President Eric Horvitz, who serves as the chair for these three committees, reviewed recent activity. The Awards Committee oversees the Classic Paper Award and the Distinguished Service Award, which were awarded as follows: the Classic Paper Award went to Hector Levesque, David Mitchell, and Bart Selman for their two 1991 papers: *Hard and Easy Distribution of SAT Problems* and *A New Method for Solving Hard Satisfiability Problems*. The Distinguished Service Award honored David L. Waltz (Center for Computational Learning Systems, Columbia University) for his extraordinary and long-term technical contributions to artificial intelligence including ground-breaking work in computer vision, memory-based reasoning, classification, and information retrieval, and extensive and dedicated organizational leadership within the AI research community. Beyond the widespread influence of his ideas and guidance, his insights, wisdom, and generous mentorship have been of tremendous value in the nurturing and support of numerous students and colleagues.

In addition to these two awards, the Awards Committee added two new items to the list of AAAI honors: the Feigenbaum Prize and the AAAI Senior Member grade of membership. The first Feigenbaum Prize was awarded jointly to Sebastian Thrun (Stanford University) and William A. "Red" Whittaker (Carnegie Mellon University) for their influential contributions to artificial intelligence via achievements in autonomous vehicle research, including experimental efforts and research leadership of teams addressing challenges with the fielding of robotic systems in the open world. The committee also welcomed the inaugural class of AAAI Senior Members at AAAI-12. Honorees included Marie desJardins (University of Maryland Baltimore County), Hans W. Guesgen (Massey University), Tad H.

AAAI President Henry Kautz convened the meeting at 9:15 am. He welcomed the four newly elected councilors: Kate Larson (University of Waterloo, Canada), Michael Wooldridge (University of Liverpool, UK), Makoto Yokoo (Kyushu University, Japan), and Shlomo Zilberstein (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA). At the same time, he thanked the retiring members of the Council for all their contributions during the past several years: Claire Cardie, Amy Greenwald, Gal Kaminka, and Tuomas Sandholm. The minutes of the March 20, 2011 Executive Council meeting were approved.

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 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

Secretary Treasurer Ted Senator briefly reviewed the budget for 2011 and the activities of the Finance Committee for 2011. The operating deficit was expected to be within the 3–5 percent of the value of the investment portfolio, which is in line with our policies. The most effective way for the Executive Council to reduce the operating deficit without cutting programs is to increase memberships and conference attendance. The Finance Committee concentrates its efforts on the oversight of the investment portfolio,

Hogg (Institute for Molecular Manufacturing), Diane J. Litman (University of Pittsburgh), João Pavão Martins (SISCOG ≠ Sistemas Cognitivos Lda), Leora Morgenstern (SAIC), Ted E. Senator (SAIC), Ramasamy Uthurusamy (General Motors Research (retired)), and Holly Yanco (University of Massachusetts Lowell).

The Fellows Committee elected six new fellows in 2011, including Dieter Fox (University of Washington), Robert C. Holte (University of Alberta), Sheila A. McIlraith (University of Toronto), Satinder Singh Baveja (University of Michigan), Makoto Yokoo (Kyushu University), and Shlomo Zilberstein (University of Massachusetts Amherst). They were to be honored during the annual Fellows dinner at AAAI-11. The Nominating Committee put together a slate of eight councilors. The newly elected members of the Council are listed at the beginning of these minutes.

Carol Hamilton announced that the following conference awards would be presented at the opening ceremony for AAAI-11. The AAAI-11 Outstanding Paper Award went to two papers: Complexity of and Algorithms for Borda Manipulation by Jessica Davies, George Katsirelos, Nina Narodytska, and Toby Walsh, and Computational Sustainability and Artificial Intelligence Track: Dynamic Resource Allocation in Conservation Planning by Daniel Golovin, Andreas Krause, Beth Gardner, Sarah J. Converse, and Steve Morey. Three members of the AAAI-11 program committee were honored for their outstanding service: Senior Program Committee Members José Neira (University of Zaragoza, Spain) and Kilian Q. Weinberger (Washington University in St. Louis, USA), and Program Committee Member Shane Bergsma (Johns Hopkins University, USA).

Hamilton also noted that the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award was being given to Ramon Lopez de Mantaras (Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (IIIA) and Spanish National Research Council) for pioneering research contributions in a breadth of artificial intelligence areas, especially pattern recognition and case-based reasoning, leading to novel applications in design, diagnosis, and

music, and for extensive international leadership and service for the AI community, and five IAAI-11 Deployed Application Awards were being presented during the conference. A series of awards were being given throughout the conference for robot, poker, and video competitions, which had six winning categories.

In a short discussion following the review of the awards, Ted Senator noted that it is often difficult to attract award-winning IAAI deployed papers to the conference because the industrial incentive model is not based on the publications model, and often presents problems with the release of proprietary information. Others suggested that a competition might encourage more submissions in this area, especially with innovative start-ups. The Council also discussed the possibility of expanding the award categories for AAAI, or enhancing current awards, such as the Classic Paper Award with an *AI Magazine* article component. The possibility of forming a committee to nominate people for external awards was considered in order to increase AI visibility.

#### Conference Outreach

Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI lent cooperation to over thirty conferences in 2011. She noted that there are still many conferences with which AAAI would like to form alliances and asked Executive Council members to send names of possible conferences to her, along with a contact name. The Council also discussed the possibility of forging affiliations with other conferences to develop joint competitions that would rotate among cooperating conferences.

#### Publications Committee

David Leake, Publications Committee Chair and *AI Magazine* Editor-in-Chief, announced that he had been working closely with the AAAI International Committee on launching a new feature of *AI Magazine* called "Worldwide AI." The column will feature reports from various national groups on the state of AI in their particular country. It is hoped that this will encourage more international submissions to *AI Magazine*, as well as bring higher visibility to AI research throughout the

world. International Committee Chair Maria Fox noted that in order to maintain the column on a quarterly basis, members of the Council should encourage submissions. Leake also announced this new venture at the International AI meeting in Barcelona, where it was enthusiastically received. He thanked the members of the AAAI International Committee for their help with the first edition. Leake updated the Executive Council on upcoming issues of the magazine, including the fall issue on recommender systems, and several topics for special issues were suggested.

Tony Cohn, AAAI Press Editor, reported that the Press has been investigating how to take advantage of new production technology in order to provide a more flexible publishing service to authors, including the possibility of producing e-books and very short print runs, enabling AAAI to publish books to niche markets which would not previously have been financially viable. The Press welcomes proposals from authors for either monographs or edited collections with a well-defined focus.

#### International Committee

In addition to the *AI Magazine* activities noted earlier, the International Committee reported that it had been looking for other ways to reach out to the international AI community, including the formation of regional chapters. Manuela Veloso noted that she had been discussing the possibility of a chapter in Beijing, and would also like to reach out to India, South America and other international AI centers. The Council discussed several possible models for chapters and what AAAI's role in the chapter would be, and it was agreed that AAAI's main focus should be to give visibility to the local AI community and build opportunities for greater communication among the international community. Due to an impending anniversary celebration in China, the Council agreed that Veloso should continue discussions with Beijing representatives and put together a proposal by mid-September for AAAI affiliation. It was hoped that a representative of AAAI would be present in Beijing for the October celebration.

## Membership

Membership Committee Chair Mark Maybury noted that several membership initiatives have been implemented over the past few years, such as the establishment of the Senior Member grade of membership, the normalization of all rates regardless of geographic location, and the iPad incentive in the fall of 2010. The establishment of chapters with minimum membership requirements will also attract new members. Introductory student memberships could be offered to all computer science students at AI centers, such as Carnegie Mellon University. In addition, developing more conference cooperation, which calls for discounts for AAAI members at sister events, will reach out to other AI areas.

Eric Horvitz agreed that in order to build membership, a multiplicity of methods should be used. He noted that Sebastian Thrun will be teaching an online course in the winter of 2010 and that successful students could be given a trial membership in AAAI. He will follow up with Thrun on this opportunity. The membership committee will also review current benefits, and see if there are areas that could be developed, such as a career newsletter that would appeal to students.

## Symposium

Carol Hamilton reported that the Spring Symposium has experienced difficulty in attracting proposals. The Council agreed that good proposals was the key to a successful event, and decided that moving the symposium would probably not have an effect on the submissions or attendance. The Council agreed to be proactive in helping with finding proposals for future events.

## AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The installation of newly elected councilors Kate Larson, Michael Wooldridge, Makoto Yokoo, and Shlomo Zilberstein was completed. Retiring councilors Claire Cardie, Amy Greenwald, Gal Kaminka, and Tuomas Sandholm were thanked for their years of service.

## Conference

Carol Hamilton reported that attendance at AAAI-11 was up by over 10

percent from 2010 and onsite registrations were anticipated to be strong because of the location. Technical paper submissions continued to climb in 2011 with the continuance of three special tracks (AI and the Web, Integrated Intelligence, and Physically Grounded AI) and the addition of a special track on Computational Sustainability in AI. There were a total of 990 submissions overall. The Nectar track also received 39 submissions. The Conference Committee will continue to monitor the special tracks and make recommendations to future chairs on their continuance. In 2011, all papers were given an oral presentation slot, with poster slots going to papers that (1) may attract broader interest in the topic or technique presented; (2) involve a complex system or theory that cannot be described fully in a 17-minute presentation; or (3) would benefit from a longer and/or more visual presentation.

The conference will kick off with a 25th Anniversary Panel organized by Manuela Veloso, and featuring several past presidents of AAAI. Other invited talks will be given by David Ferrucci (IBM T. J. Watson Research Center) (Joint AAAI-1/IAAI-11), Heinrich H. Buelthoff (Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics), Karrie Karahalios (University of Illinois), Michael Kearns (University of Pennsylvania), and Kurt Konolige (Willow Garage, Inc and Stanford University), as well as IAAI-11 talks by Ramon Lopez De Mantaras (Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (IIIA) and Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)) and David Gunning (Vulcan Inc.). All invited talks will be videotaped and included at the VideoLectures.net site.

Special programs will include the Computer Poker Competition, the Robotics Workshop and Exhibition, the Student Abstract and Poster Session, the Doctoral Consortium, 15 tutorials, and 15 workshops.

The Executive Council discussed several ways to improve the conference, in particular the addition of a Best Paper track, similar to that at IJ-CAI-11, highlighting the best papers from sister and subarea conferences in AI, as well as the addition of an off-site banquet in 2012. Both of these pro-

posals were approved. Henry Kautz will also designate an industry liaison or local chair, who will recruit industry participation in Toronto. The Council discussed the current procedure for the selection of program chairs, and made some suggestions to broaden the involvement of the Executive Council in this process. The Conference Committee will come up with a list of potential candidates, which will be reviewed by the Executive Council. Council will be polled by the Conference for suggestions, and will review the list of final candidates. The final decision will be approved by the President, as it has been in the past.

Assuming all goes well with negotiations, Carol Hamilton reported that it is likely that AAAI-14 will collocate with Cognitive Science in Quebec City, Montreal, Canada. The Council was hopeful that there will be opportunities for technical overlap between the two conferences, such as posters during each others coffee breaks. However, the final schedule will determine the feasibility of this.

Hamilton reported that submissions for AIIDE 2011 were slightly down over the previous year. A total of 17 papers were accepted for oral presentation and another 17 were accepted for poster presentation. Invited talks will be given by Robert Zubek (Zynga), Akhil Madhani (Walt Disney Imagineering R&D), Dan Kline and Lauren McHugh (Maxis), Louis Gascoigne (Electronic Arts), and Bob Fitch (Blizzard). AIIDE-11 will include an expanded workshop program, with three workshops, including Intelligent Narrative Technologies 4 (two-day), Artificial Intelligence in the Game Design Process, and Taking Non-Player Characters to the Next Level. This new program should help increase interest and attendance in the conference.

The Council discussed the difficulty AIIDE has had in attracting papers and participation, and Jonathan Schaeffer noted that the original idea of equal industry and research participation has been difficult to achieve because of industry's need to protect their games in development. A suggestion was made to fold this into the Spring Symposium or collocate it with the AAAI conference. The AAAI Executive



Committee will review this issue and send a letter to the AIIDE organizers about possible alternatives, pending the outcome of the 2011 conference.

The 2011 ICWSM conference, which was collocated with IJCAI-11 in Barcelona, enjoyed a dramatic 25 percent increase in attendance. ICWSM-11 had a joint reception with IJCAI-11. Paper submissions for the conference doubled to reach a total of 261. ICWSM-11 also expanded its workshop program to three, and continued its tutorial program. Invited presentations were given by Sinan Aral (NYU Stern School of Business and Affiliated Faculty at MIT), Manuel Castells (Director of the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), Spain), Jimmy Lin (Twitter), Foster Provost (New York University), Joel Seligstein (Facebook), and Duncan Watts (Yahoo! Research). An invited panel on “Is Social Media Making News Generation and Consumption Better? With representatives from industry and the media rounded out the program. The ICWSM conference committee continues to be successful in raising outside funding, with over \$20,500 in sponsorships for 2011.

## Ongoing Business

### CRA Report

Carla Brodley, AAAI CRA Liaison, reported on recent CRA Board activities. The government committee resumed CRA congressional visits day, and established two new activities: the leadership in science policy institute (with the CCC), which will educate a group of 35 CS researchers on how to discuss research with congressional staff members, and a fall congressional fly-in, when chairs and attendees of Snowbird come to DC to talk to their representatives about computer science research. Other CRA activities include sponsorship of a fall congressional lunch briefing, support of a National Robotics Week briefing, and support of a recent Robotics and Manufacturing briefing. Break-out groups at the recent CRA Board meeting discussed the following topics: Research Climate Issues, such as deadline driven research and its negative impact on the community; Taulbee Survey Reporting, and recent recommendations



## AAAI to Colocate with Cognitive Science Society in 2014!

AAAI is pleased to announce that it will collocate with the 2014 Cognitive Science Society Conference in picturesque Québec City, Québec, July 27-31, 2014. The conference will be held at the beautiful Centre des congrès de Québec, and attendees can stay at the adjacent Hilton Québec. More details will be available at the AAAI website soon!

about how the data should be presented were passed; Postdocs in CS, with a recommendation by the group for a white paper on expectations for people in these positions; CRA-E, where the missions and charge of this group was discussed.

The AAAI Executive Council noted that it was important to continue good representation on the CRA Board so that the needs of the artificial intelligence research community are met. Henry Kautz noted that AAAI Government Relations Committee will begin work in 2012, and will seek ways to coordinate with the CRA. Tuomas Sandholm reported that a graduate student has collected extensive data on conferences and universities with regard to publications, and that it might be useful to generate some kind of ranking based on these criteria. Sandholm will follow up on the availability of this data.

### AI Topics

Reid Smith gave a report on the current status of the AI Topics site, which provides a stable, reliable source of information on artificial intelligence to researchers, students, media represen-

tatives, and others with a general interest in AI. The goal of AI Topics is to complement other sources, such as Wikipedia and Facebook, but to remain the most consistent, comprehensive site for AI resources. AI Topics will cross-reference the AAAI website as well as its Facebook site. AI Topics operates with an editorial board, and Smith noted that volunteers are needed to serve in specific topic areas. He noted that AI Topics has digitized several classic books and papers, and has plans to continue this project. The automated NewsFinder program was launched in Fall 2010, and posts automatically on “AI in the News” (AITopics/AINews), RSS feeds, and the AI-Alert mailing list template, with old stories archived automatically. The AI Alert, a news service highlighting AI in the News, is published and distributed weekly to a mailing list of about 1,000. AAAI will include all members on the list in the coming months. AAAI employs summer interns to assist with development of the site, and more recently to develop NewsFinder. This work is currently funded by AI Journal. Two conference papers have been accepted on the NewsFinder work.

