Join Us in 2011 for Our Silver Anniversary — 25 Years of AAA!

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

Join Us for the AAAI-10 and IAAI-10 Conferences in Atlanta, July 11–15!

The Twenty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-10) and the Twenty-Second Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-10) will be held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Westin Peachtree Plaza, July 11–15, 2010.

AAAI will consist of a main technical track and five special tracks on AI and Bioinformatics (new), AI and the Web, Challenges in AI (new), Integrated Intelligence, and Physically Grounded AI, as well as Senior Member Papers and Nectar Papers. The newly formed AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in AI will be collocated with AAAI (details follow). The AAAI-10 program will also include 15 half-day tutorials, 13 workshops, the AAAI Mobile Robot Exhibition and Workshop, the General Game Playing Competition, the AAAI Poker Competition, and the Video Competition, Student Abstract Posters, the AAAI / SIGART Doctoral Consortium, and more!

Registration, hotel, and student housing information and forms are available on the AAAI-10 conference web site at www.aaai.org/aaai10. The early registration deadline is May 14, 2010.

Atlanta

Visitors to Atlanta can enjoy major attractions, such as the Georgia Aquarium, the High Museum of Art, Centennial Olympic Park, and the New World

AAAI News

Spring News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

of Coke. The city is also home to CNN and a host of cultural and historical attractions, such as the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and the Woodruff Arts Center. The Georgia Institute of Technology has long been a leading center for research in artificial intelligence. Atlanta's airport is the busiest travel hub in the world, and offers direct flights to over 95 cities in 57 countries each day. For more information, please visit www.atlanta.net. Check out some interesting folklore and trivia at www.atlanta.net/visitors/folklore.html!

AAAI-10 Conference Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Volunteer Programs for 2010. The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in Atlanta. In 2010, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to participating students for the volunteer positions. Local students or students not requiring travel assistance can apply for the Volunteer Program if openings are available. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at volunteer10@ aaai.org. The deadline for volunteer applications is April 15, 2010.

Showcase Your Video at AAAI-10!

The organizers of the fourth annual AAAI Video Competition are currently soliciting your submission for this very popular program. The submission deadline is Monday, May 17, 2010.

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-10 on Monday, July 11. During that evening's session, the developers of the best videos will be formally presented with awards. We strongly encourage student participation! For complete information about the program and how to submit, please consult the AAAI-10 conference website.

Fifth Annual AAAI Computer Poker Competition

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 2009 competition featured 25 poker-playing programs submitted from 7 countries. The poker variant considered in the 2010 competition will be Texas Hold'em poker, and there will also be a multiplayer competition.

Registrations for the competition will be accepted through May 1, 2010.

NEW! Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI)

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

The Nineteenth Annual AAAI Robot Exhibition and Workshop

The Nineteenth Edition of Robotics Program at AAAI features the long-standing Robotics Exhibitions as well as demonstration and challenges in emerging areas of robotics research. The Robotics Program has a long tradition of demonstrating innovating research in robotics at the intersection with artificial intelligence. This year, the AAAI-10 Robotics Program will feature an open robotics exhibition, demonstrations for intelligent robotics challenge problems, and a workshop to present current results and discuss future directions.

Moving forward, the theme for AAAI-10 Robotics is "Enabling Intelligence through Middleware." This theme aims to cultivate challenge experiments to advance specific problems in robotics research and education. Each challenge is intended to be an experiment designed to motivate and evaluate an individual function of artificial intelligence for robotics, similar to the Semantic Robot Vision Challenge at AAAI-07. These challenges are meant to identify problems of interest as well as promote common metrics and experiments that are reproducible by individual researchers.

This year, participants are invited to demonstrate projects related to the following challenges: Semantic Robot Vision Challenge: autonomous object retrieval using image understanding and knowledge acquisition from large unstructured databases; Small Scale Mobile Manipulation Challenge: Table top chess challenge; Mobile Manipulation Demonstration: in the form of fetching various household objects; Learning from Demonstration: teaching robots policies through human guidance; and Robotics Education Track: to motivate educational participation and curriculum.

Exhibition proposals are due April 1, 2010 (March 1, 2010 for challenge participation). For more information, contact Monica Anderson (University of Alabama; monica@cs.ua.edu) or Andrea Thomaz (Georgia Institute of Technology; athomaz@cc.gatech.edu).

For more information, contact Nolan Bard (acpc.chair@gmail.com).

Please Join Us for ICWSM-10!

The Fourth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held at George Washington University in Washington, DC, May 23-26, 2010. This interdisciplinary conference brings together researchers and industry leaders interested in creating and analyzing social media. ICWSM-10 will invite government innovators, who are experimenting with the use of social media to increase transparency and better engage with the citizenry, to share their experiences.

The program includes an impressive line-up of keynote speakers, including Michael Kearns of the University of Pennsylvania and Bob Kraut of Carnegie Mellon University. Additionally, there will be a series of invited talks by James Pennebaker (University of Texas, Austin), Craig Watkins (University of Texas, Austin), and Nicole Ellison (Michigan State University), as well as a special panel on US government and social media with panelists Macon Phillips (White House, Head of New Media), Don Burke (CIA Directorate of Science and Technology, Intellipedia Project), and Haym Hirsh (National Science Foundation IIS Division Director).

Four tutorials will be presented on May 23, including the following:

- The Social Semantic Web: How Web 2.0 and the Semantic Web Can Strengthen Each Other (John Breslin and Alexandre Passant)
- Introduction to Social Media Network Analysis (Marc Smith and Derek Hansen)
- Large-Scale Social Media Analytics with Hadoop (Jake Hofman)
- Using LIWC to Uncover Social Psychology in Social Media (Cindy Chung and James W. Pennebaker)

Registration information and forms are now available via the ICWSM-10 web site at www.icwsm.org. The early registration deadline is March 26, and the late registration deadline is April 23. For full details about the conference program, please visit the ICWSM-

10 website or write to icwsm10 @aaai.org.

Call for Papers: Sixth Annual AAAI Artificial Intelligence for Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-10)

The Sixth Annual AAAI Artificial Intelligence for Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference will be held October 11-13, 2010, at Stanford University adjacent to Palo Alto, California. AIIDE-10 organizers are currently accepting submissions for the Sixth Annual Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference, intended to be the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. While traditionally emphasizing commercial computer and video games, researchers and developers are invited to share their insights and cutting-edge results on all topics at the interface of entertainment and artificial intelligence, including serious games, entertainment robotics, and beyond. Because AIIDE-10 crosses disciplinary boundaries, submissions will be evaluated based on their accessibility to both commercial game developers and researchers in addition to their technical merit.

AIIDE-10 will consist of two tracks, including the Research Track, where papers describe AI research results that make advances towards solving known game AI problems or enabling a new form of interactive digital entertainment, and the Industry Track, developed for individuals that have game development experience but lack the time or need for publishing rigorous academic papers. This track will include presentations of AI techniques, issues, or case studies from the perspective of implementing a product in the current commercial environment.

All submissions are due April 20, 2010. The complete call for papers and other information can be found at the AIIDE-10 web sites: www.aaai.org/aiide10 or www.aiide.org.

AAAI 2010 Workshops

AAAI invites your participation in the AAAI-10 Workshop Program, to be held Sunday and Monday, July 11–12, in Atlanta. The submission deadline is Monday, March 29, 2010. Submission requirements vary for each workshop, and in a few cases, the submission deadline may be different. For complete descriptions and submission information about each of the workshops, please see www.aaai.org/ Workshops/ws10.php.

- W1: AI and Fun Contact: Mark Riedl, Georgia Institute of Technology (riedl@gatech.edu)
- W2: Bridging the Gap between Task and Motion Planning Contact: Maxim Likhachev, University of Pennsylvania (maximl@seas.upenn.edu)
- W3: Collaboratively-Built Knowledge Sources for Artificial Intelligence Contact: Vivi Nastase, EML Research gGmb (nastase@eml-research.de)
- W4: Goal-Directed Autonomy

 Contact: David W. Aha, Naval Research Lab (david.aha@nrl.navy.mil)
- W5: Intelligent Security

 Contact: Mark Boddy, Adventium Labs

 (mark.boddy@adventiumlabs.org)
- W6: Interactive Decision Theory and Game Theory Contact: Piotr Gmytrasiewicz, University of Illinois at Chicago (piotr@cs.uic.edu)
- W7: Metacognition for Robust Social Systems *Contact:* Anita Raja, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (anraja@uncc.edu)
- W8: Model Checking and Artificial Intelligence Contact: Jan-Georg Smaus, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (smaus@informatik.uni-freiburg.de)
- W9: Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning Contact: Artur d'Avila Garcez, City University London (aag@soi.city.ac.uk)
- W10: PAIR: Plan, Activity, and Intent Recognition 2010 Contact: Christopher Geib, University of Edinburgh (cgeib@inf.ed.ac.uk)
- W11: StarAI Statistical Relational AI Contact: Kristian Kersting, University of Bonn/Fraunhofer IAIS (kristian.kersting@iais.fraunhofer.de)
- W12: Visual Representations and Reasoning Contact: Keith McGreggor, Georgia Institute of Technology (keith.mcgreggor@gatech.edu)
- W13: Workshop on Abstraction, Reformulation, and Approximation *Contact:* Gregory Provan, University College Cork, (g.provan@cs.ucc.ie) or Ashish Sabharwal, Cornell University, (sabhar@cs.cornell.edu)

Visit AAAI on Facebook and LinkedIn

Did you know that AAAI has a presence on both Facebook and LinkedIn? We invite all interested individuals to check out the Facebook site by searching for AAAI. If you are a current member of AAAI, you can also join us on LinkedIn. We welcome your feedback on these initiatives at info10@aaai.org.

AAAI Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mail for your AAAI ballot, which will be mailed to all regular AAAI members in April. The membership will vote for four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. Ballots will be due back at the AAAI office no later than June 4. The Annual Business meeting for AAAI will be held this summer during AAAI-10 in Atlanta. The exact day and time will be announced on the ballot, in the summer issue of the magazine, and in the conference program.

2010 Fall Symposium Series

The 2010 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 11–13, at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. Please watch the 2010 Fall Symposium Series website (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss10.php) for the full list of accepted proposals and the Call for Participation. The deadline for submissions is May 14, 2010.

2011 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI is currently accepting proposals for the 2011 Spring Symposium Series, to be held at Stanford University, California, March 21–23, 2011.

Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for the 2011 Spring Symposium Series. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Committee, (Chair: Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri-Columbia; Cochair: Chad Jenkins, Brown University; and Associate Chair: Alan Schultz, Naval Research Laboratory). Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than April 16, 2010. The Call for Proposals is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss11.php.

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

Support AAAI Programs with Your Special Donation

AAAI thanks 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."

Stay Informed with AAAI Member Announcements

If you are a member of AAAI and would like to receive periodic an-

nouncements and reminders about AAAI programs or other noteworthy AI news, please go to www.aaai.org/cgi-dada/mail.cgi, choose AAAI-Members, enter your email address, and select "subscribe." If your email address changes, please be sure to follow the instructions for unsubscribing at your old address and subscribing at your new address.

AAAI Job Bank

Check out the latest AI-related job opportunities at www.aaai.org/Magazine/job-bank.php. Postings may also be submitted at the same site.

AAAI Member News

Ray Kurzweil Receives The Economist's Innovation Award. The Economist's Innovation Award for Computing and Telecommunications was presented to Ray Kurzweil in October 2009 for contributions to optical character recognition (OCR) and speech recognition technology. In 1974, Kurzweil was the principal developer of the world's first omni-font OCR, and in 1984, he created the world's first commercially marketed large-vocabulary speech recognition technology. Kurzweil is the recipient many other honors, including the \$500,000 MIT-Lemelson Prize and the National Medal of Technology from President Clinton in a White House ceremony. In 2002, he was inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame, established by the US Patent Office.

AAAI Executive Council

The AAAI Executive Council meeting was held via a conference call on December 8, 2009. Attending via telecom were Martha Pollack, Ron Brachman, Carla Brodley, Bruce Buchanan, Claire Cardie, Tony Cohn, Dieter Fox, Amy Greenwald, Haym Hirsh, Eric Horvitz, Rao Kambhampati, David Leake, Sheila McIlraith, Tuomas Sandholm, Ted Senator, David E. Smith, and Carol Hamilton.

Not attending were Cynthia Breazeal, Gal Kaminka, Henry Kautz, Mark Maybury, Alan Schultz, and Rich Sutton. AAAI President Martha Pollack called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM PST and roll call was taken. Pollack noted that this meeting would be shorter in duration, focusing on a few key issues, and welcomed feedback from the committee after the meeting on the format.

2010 Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator reviewed the current market value of AAAI investments, explaining that the portfolio had a gain of 35 percent from its lowest point in April 2009. After the transfer of all funds to Vanguard in 2008, a series of rebalancing measures were taken, which were completed in May. The 2009 projections reflect an operating deficit of approximately \$45,000 less than the originally budgeted deficit. After a series of substantial cuts made in 2008, the 2010 budget is also expected to meet the goal of a 3-5 percent drawdown on the investments. This is due in part to expanded conference services in 2010 and a healthier investment portfolio. A continuing area of concern is AAAI membership. An ad-hoc discussion was held to brainstorm ideas for attraction and retention of AAAI members.

The Council agreed that the difficult economic situation was a key factor in the downturn in memberships in 2009. Other factors played a part, such as no AAAI conference, at which many members routinely renew their memberships. The AAAI membership committee chairs are currently investigating the idea of an expanded membership structure, with senior and other honorary levels. Most agreed that this might be the single most effective way to retain members. Other suggestions included the distribution of the AI Landscape poster to computer science departments to heighten awareness of AAAI; development of AAAI's presence on social network sites, such as Facebook and LinkedIn; expansion of international membership on Executive Council and other committees: and establishment of incentives for new members, such as prizes, or for current members who recruit new members.

AI Topics

Sheila McIlraith, who chairs an ad-hoc committee charged with exploring the current state of the AAAI AI Topics site and preparing a proposal for moving forward, briefly described the AI Topics site. The site, started in 2000, is a mediated, edited information for portal, originally geared toward high school and undergraduate students, instructors, journalists and the lay public. It has served as an important tool in responding to daily inquiries that the AAAI office receives on AI information, research, and history. McIlraith and Bruce Buchanan noted that the committee agreed that AAAI has a responsibility to communicate with the public about what AAAI and AI scientists are doing, and to be thoughtful in how we present AI to the public. The committee considered this in constructing their list of suggestions for how AAAI should continue AI Topics.

McIlraith explained that there are two caveats to the successful continuation of AI Topics: first, the need for it to be self-sustaining, and second, the recruitment of dedicated and consistent volunteers. The proposal before the Council called for the establishment of an editor-in-chief and a set of volunteer associate editors, who would manage the content for particular research areas. This body would determine the look and feel of the site as it moves forward. Periodic upgrades and facelifts to the site could be executed by a summer intern, as was done when the site was converted to a wiki in 2008. The site would continue to link to previously reviewed and published online text, video, instructional software, and audio information about AI. It would also include the AI in the News page, which has been dormant for several months. Several council members suggested that Wikipedia might be a better venue to continue the efforts that AI Topics started because it is more widely used and cited. Others were concerned about the lack of oversight on Wikipedia and the fact that several of the functions currently in AI topics could not be incorporated into Wikipedia. A suggestion was made that associate editors would be asked to recruit students and others to also

Save the Date! AAAI-12 in Toronto, Canada

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 Toronto Hotel, July 22–26, 2012. Please be sure to mark your calendars now for this conference, AAAI's third visit to Canada!

monitor Wikipedia content in given areas so that the information being presented there remains accurate.

Ultimately, the Council recommended the following actions: (1) Investigate the possibility of finding and funding an AI Topics editorial board; (2) explore the division of AI topics and Wikipedia components; (3) study the best way to bring AI information to the broadest audience; (4) maintain resources on AI topics, preserving what is unique about the site; (5) develop a plan for a strong presence on Wikipedia, possibly setting up an AI project there.

Government Liaison

Ron Brachman, who recently agreed to chair an ad hoc committee to investigate the role that a AAAI government liaison might play, described the two main functions he had identified for this individual or committee: (1) The government liaison should provide a single, well-known target point for key players in Washington to contact when they need knowledgeable input about AI. This could be for strategic initiatives, funding programs, policy discussions, key appointments, etc. The goverment-liaison function should be easily found by anyone who might have this need in D.C., and be-

AAAI E-mail Addresses

Please note that AAAI has modified its e-mail addresses in 2010 in an effort to reduce the amount of spam that we are receiving, as follows:

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

E-mails will be updated on an annual basis. AAAI can also be reached by filling out the contact form at www.aaai.org/scripts/Contact/contact.php.

come known as a reliable place to go to get access to the best talent and knowledge in the field through AAAI. The goverment-liaison function should also be proactive in contacting agencies and offering AAAI's assistance with providing information. (2) The goverment-liaison can serve a clearinghouse function for the AI community so that people interested in funding opportunities and important committee and other activities in Washington related to AI can find what they need in a centralized place.

Brachman also sought information from the Council as this role is developed, including the following:

- A tiered list of key agencies and people in Washington that should be targeted.
- A definition of AAAI's current relationship with CRA and CCC. AAAI should strive to be complementary and avoid

- duplication of effort. What is the best way to maximize existing relationships with CRA and CCC?
- Identify the key players within AI who have extensive relationships with the targeted people and agencies.
 - Identify other computer scientists who play a similar role and do it well. Contact those individuals for pointers.
- Suggest effective communication mechanisms to get information out to the field, such as a website or blog? The government liaison should report regularly to the president and Executive Council.
- Create a brochure or handout that can be given to government people explaining AAAI's mission and assets and resources, and what roles we can play to assist them with their jobs.

AI Journal Funding Opportunities

Martha Pollack reviewed the AI Journal announcement regarding potential funding opportunities and asked for suggestions from the Council about ways in which AAAI might use these funds effectively. Suggestions included funding international invited speakers at AAAI from emerging AI communities; support for the expansion and restructuring of AI Topics; support for the distribution of the AI poster internationally; and support for the development of K-12 materials on robotics. Tony Cohn, who serves as the coeditor of the AI Journal, noted that the intention of the funding is to have broad impact. The Council agreed that AI Topics best fit this model.

Federated AI Conference

Martha Pollack reported that after enthusiastic support at the summer Council meeting to investigate the possibility of a Federated AI Conference, she and Carol Hamilton had spoken with representatives of the ACM Federated Computing Research Conference. Due to the current model of the FCRC with limited parallel sessions and smaller conferences, AAAI would not fit into this structure well. Pollack had also spoken to representatives of other AI area conferences to get feedback on whether they thought the idea of a conference that would bring together several subareas of AAAI would be attractive to their communities. Generally, people were interested in the idea. There was one suggestion for a nontechnical conference that would include invited talks, tutorials, and panels. Such a conference would focus on the big picture, and would not interfere with the disciplinary conferences. The Council also found this idea interesting, and thought it could be very inspiring to students in the field. The issue of finding travel funding for this kind of conference was discussed and suggestions were made to include evening poster sessions and/or apply for government grants. Another suggestion was made to assign a commentator to papers presented, which was a common practice at early AAAI's. The Executive Committee will review these suggestions, and decide whether to move forward with a federated conference model during the coming months.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM PST. Pollack requested feedback from the Council on the format of this teleconference.

Addendum

Subsequent to this meeting, the following proposal was circulated to the Executive Council via e-mail on December 21. It was approved on January 5, 2010 with a vote of 10 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention, 4 absent.

Proposal: AAAI is willing to support an effort to revive AI Topics and to host it on its web site. Bruce Buchanan is authorized to form an editorial board who will oversee the selection of content for the AI Topics pages. The members of the AI Topics editorial board will be listed on the AI Topics site. The list will also be printed in AI Magazine, in the masthead and under a designation of "AI Topics Editorial Board." AAAI will provide one-time funding of \$10,000 to initiate the project, but beyond that the site must become self-supporting. Towards that end, the editorial board may explore advertisements on the AI Topics page, and may solicit gifts to support it, but they must coordinate with the chair of the development committee (Yoav Shoham) before making a specific ask to any individual.