

AAAI News

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

Congratulations to the 2007 AAAI Award Winners!

Alan Mackworth, AAAI President, and Ron Brachman, AAAI Past President and Awards Committee Chair, presented the AAAI awards in July at AAAI-07 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Award winners received a certificate and a check for \$1,000.

Classic Paper Award

The 2007 AAAI Classic Paper Award was given to the authors of the most influential paper from the Seventh National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1988 in St. Paul, Minnesota. The award was presented to Peter Cheeseman, Matthew Self, Jim Kelly, Will Taylor, and Don Freeman for "Bayesian Classification." This paper was honored for its foundational theoretical and practical contributions to machine learning. In addition, Benjamin J. Kuipers and Yung-Tai Byun received honorable mention for "A Robust, Qualitative Method for Robot Spatial Learning" and its significant contributions to robotics, specifically, topological mapping by an autonomous physically embodied agent using sensorimotor data.

Distinguished Service Award

The 2007 AAAI Distinguished Service Award recognizes one individual each year for extraordinary service to the AI community. The AAAI Awards Committee is pleased to announce that this year's recipient was Tom M. Mitchell of Carnegie Mellon University. Mitchell was honored specifically for his outstanding service to artificial in-

telligence and computer science, including seminal intellectual and service contributions to machine learning and leadership at Carnegie Mellon University and in AAAI, NRC, and AAAS.

Robert S. Englemore Memorial Lecture Award

The Robert S. Englemore award was established in 2003 to honor Dr. Robert S. Englemore's extraordinary service to AAAI, *AI Magazine*, and the AI applications community, and his contributions to applied AI. The annual keynote lecture is presented at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence conference. Topics encompass Bob'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 AAAI Program Committee and the editor of the *AI Magazine*.

AAAI congratulates the 2007 recipient of this award, Oren Etzioni. Etzioni was honored for his longstanding technical and entrepreneurial contributions to artificial intelligence, including seminal research on AI on the web and the deployment of AI technologies in high-impact applications. His lecture was entitled "AI in a Moore's Law World: the Stories of Forecast and KnowItAll."

AAAI-07 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 cochairs with the help of some members of the Senior Program Committee. Honors went to:

- "PLOW: A Collaborative Task Learning Agent" by James Allen, Nathanael Chambers, George Ferguson, Lucian Galescu, Hyuckchul Jung, Mary Swift, and William Taysom
- "Thresholded Rewards: Acting Optimally in Timed, Zero-Sum Games" by Colin McMillen and Manuela Veloso

AAAI-07 Program Committee Awards

AAAI-07 program cochairs Rob Holte and Adele Howe recognized the following members of the AAAI-07 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-07 Outstanding Senior Program Committee Member Award:** Gerhard Brewka (University of Leipzig)
- **AAAI-07 Outstanding Program Committee Award:** Kiri Wagstaff (Jet Propulsion Laboratory)
- **Honorable Mention, AAAI-07 Program Committee:** Malte Helmert (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg)

AAAI-07 General Game Playing Competition

The AAAI General Game Playing Competition is designed to test the abilities of general game playing systems by comparing their performance on a variety of previously unseen games. The 2007 winner is CADI-APlayer, programmed by Yngvi Bjornsson and Hilmar Finnsson. AAAI gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of Michael Genesereth, which makes this competition possible.

AAAI Video Competition Winners

The highly anticipated first annual video competition was a rousing success with 24 videos accepted for presentation at the conference. Accepted videos were nominated for awards in 6 categories, and an Oscar-like presentation (with statuettes!) was held at the

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 aaai.org/cgi-dada/mail.cgi, choose AAAI-Members, enter your email address, and select "subscribe." You can also register for the semimonthly AI Alert in two different formats by following the same process for the AIAIAlert-Link or AIAIAlert-Text lists.

conclusion of the opening reception to a standing-room-only crowd! Our thanks go to David Aha and Sebastian Thrun for all their work in pulling off this exciting event in Vancouver.

The winners of the six awards were as follows:

Most Visionary

- *Color-Based Object Recognition* by Jan-Mark Greusebroek and Frank Seinstra (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Best Demonstration

- *Autonomous UAV Search and Rescue* by Patrick Doherty & Piotr Rudol (Linköpings Universitet, Sweden)

Best Explanation

- *k-Nearest Neighbor Classification* by Antal van den Bosch (Tilburg University, The Netherlands)

Best Student Video

- *Dance Evolution* by Jeff Balogh, Greg Dublin, and Michael Do (University of Central Florida, USA)

Best Short

- *Artificial Intelligence: An Instance of Aibo Ingenuity* by Michael Littman (Rutgers University, USA)

Best Video

- *Morphogenesis: Shaping Swarms of Intelligent Robots* by Anders Lyhne Christensen, Rehan O'Grady, and Marco Dorigo (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)

AAAI gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of Microsoft Research and Yahoo! Research, which made this competition possible.

Results of the remaining AAAI-07 events, including the Mobile Robot Competition and the Poker events,

will be published in the next edition of AAAI News. Congratulations to all the winners!

AAAI INTEL ISEF Special Awards

Now in its ninth year, the AAAI Special Awards program at the annual International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) consists of up to five awards to recognize outstanding achievement in the area of intelligent computation and robotics. The awards are intended for the best exhibits in the area of computer science with an artificial intelligence component. Finalists in other areas with significant computer science components are also eligible. The student authors of each award-winning project share \$1,000 and each student receives a certificate and other mementos. The winners and their schools also receive a complimentary one-year membership in the AAAI, including a subscription to *AI Magazine*.

This year, the ISEF was held May 13–19, 2007 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There were five winning projects by seven students (one team). Four projects were entered in the category of Computer Science, and one in Mathematics. The 2007 winners are as follows:

- "Acoustic Music Similarity Analysis" by David C. Liu, Lynbrook High School, San Jose, California
- "Robot Vision: A Mutual Entropy-based Algorithm Through Scene Recognition from Image Sequences for Terrestrial and

Planetary Exploration" by Lucia Mocz, Mililani High School, Mililani, Hawaii

- "A Java-based Genetic Algorithm Stock Screening Program for Maximizing Return on Investment: Show Me the Money" by Bryan Nathan Landman, Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School, Miami, Florida
- "Factors, Forces and Forecasting Stock Market Modeling and Simulation" by Quinton Bernard Smith, La Cueva High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Tyrus LaVelle Sanders, West Mesa High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Christian Stephen Hammond, Rio Rancho High School, Rio Rancho, New Mexico
- "Artificial Intelligence Insulin Delivery System" by David Christopher Evans, Albion Middle School, Sandy, Utah

AAAI congratulates all the winners! In addition, we would like to recognize the judges, who attended the fair in Albuquerque and selected the 5 winning projects from many remarkable and worthy entries. Many thanks to Reid Simmons (chair), Carnegie Mellon University, for his organizational efforts, and to all the judges, Dave Kortenkamp, Metrica TRACLabs, Martha Pollack, University of Michigan, and Yolanda Gil, USC / Information Sciences Institute, for their generous donations of time and energy.

2008 Awards

For more information about nominations for AAAI 2008 Awards, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org or 650-328-3123.

AAAI in Chicago in 2008!

The Twenty-Third AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-08) will be held July 13–17, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois. The Twentieth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-08) will be collocated with AAAI. Chicago is known as a powerhouse business center and a sophisticated city of friendly people. It is widely recognized for its daring approach to culture and the arts and its fierce passion for sports. With its beautiful lakefront, incredible architecture and cosmopolitan culture, Chicago attracts millions from around the globe every year. To find out more, please visit www.choosechicago.com/.

The AAAI-08 and IAAI-08 Calls for

AAAI Member News

Ken Ford Appointed to NASA Advisory Council

AAAI Fellow Kenneth M. Ford, founder and director of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), has been appointed to serve on the prestigious NASA Advisory Council. Ford will join 34 recognized experts from across the nation, including pioneering Apollo astronaut Neil Armstrong, to advise NASA administrator Michael Griffin on issues and policies important to NASA missions of exploration, science, and engineering. Along with general NASA Advisory Council membership, Ford has been assigned to serve on the Exploration Committee, one of five committees that comprise the Advisory Council. All Council members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the NASA administrator for two-year terms.

Ford previously worked for the space agency as the director of the NASA Center of Excellence in Information Technology and also served as Associate Center Director at the NASA Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley. In addition to the NASA Advisory Council, Ford also serves on the National Science Board and the Air Force Science Advisory Board.

University of Maryland Professorship Named for Laveen Kanal

Christopher Darnell and his firm,

Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC, have made possible the establishment of the Darnell/Kanal Professorship in Computer Science at the University of Maryland, honoring AAAI Fellow and Emeritus Professor Laveen Kanal. This generous gift is in gratitude for the warm reception and intellectual support afforded by Kanal more than twenty years ago which served as the foundation for Darnell's career in financial management. Kanal was one of the founders of the field of pattern recognition. He joined the department in July 1970, and remained as a full-time faculty member until his retirement in December 1995. During these years, he was the recipient of many prestigious international and national research awards and was a mentor to both undergraduate and graduate students. Kanal is also an IEEE and AAAS Fellow and received the King-Sun Fu Award from the International Association for Pattern Recognition in 1992.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Donald Michie, who was killed in an automobile accident on July 7, 2007. Donald Michie was born on 11 November 1923, and was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford. He obtained MA, DPhil, and DSc degrees from Oxford University for studies in biological sciences. For contributions to artificial intelligence he was elected a founding Fellow of the American Association of Artificial

Intelligence (now the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence). He received honorary degrees from the UK's National Council of Academic Awards, from Salford University, Aberdeen University, the University of York, and the University of Stirling.

Michie's awards included the 1995 Achievement Medal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (UK) for contributions to computing and control, and the 1996 Feigenbaum Medal of the World Congress on Expert Systems for his development of machine learning into an industrial-strength tool. In 2001 he received the IJCAI Award for Research Excellence. His interest in programming human intelligence into machines originated during his membership of the British code-breaking group at Bletchley Park during World War 2.

Donald Michie was founder and editor-in-chief of the *Machine Intelligence* series, of which nineteen volumes were published. He was a Fellow of the British Computer Society, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Sciences and of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Professor Emeritus of Machine Intelligence at the University of Edinburgh. He was also founder and treasurer of the Human-Computer Learning Foundation, a charity registered in the UK.

Technical Papers, Special Track Papers, Tutorial Proposals, Workshop Proposals, Student Abstracts, Doctoral Consortium, Intelligent System Demonstrations, and Robot Competition participants are available on the AAAI-08 and IAAI-08 web sites (see www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai08.php). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at aaai08@aaai.org.

Please mark these important dead-

lines on your calendar and consult the website for special program deadlines:

- *December 1, 2007*: Paper Deadline: Authors register on the AAAI and IAAI web sites
- *January 22, 2008*: IAAI Electronic papers due
- *January 25, 2008*: AAAI Electronic abstracts due
- *January 30, 2008*: AAAI Electronic papers due
- *March 7, 2008*: IAAI Notification of acceptance or rejection

- *March 18–20, 2008*: AAAI Author feedback about initial reviews
- *March 31, 2008*: AAAI Notification of acceptance or rejection
- *April 1, 2008*: IAAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office
- *April 15, 2008*: AAAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office

AAAI-08/IAAI-08 Conference Committee

AAAI Conference Committee
Chair: Yolanda Gil (USC / ISI)



AAAI INTEL ISEF Special Award Winners.

AAAI-07 Program Cochairs: Dieter Fox (University of Washington) and Carla Gomes (Cornell University)

IAAI-07 Chair: Mehmet Goker (Price-waterhouseCoopers)

We hope to see you in Chicago next summer!

AAAI Fall Symposium Series Registration

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence's 2007 Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 9–11 at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The symposium series will be preceded on Thursday, November 8 by a one-day AI funding seminar, which will be open to all registered attendees of FSS-07. The titles of the seven symposia are as follows:

- **AI and Consciousness: Theoretical Foundations and Current Approaches.** *Cochairs:* Antonio Chella (University of Palermo, chella@unipa.it) and Riccardo Manzotti (IULM University, Milan, riccardo.manzotti@iulm.it)
- **Artificial Intelligence for Prognostics.** *Organizers:* Gautam Biswas (Vanderbilt University), Piero Bonissone (GE Global Research), Kai Goebel (RIACS, NASA Ames Research Center), Andrew Hess (Consultant and retired, US Navy-JSF Program Office), Michael Roemer (Im-

pact Technologies), Serdar Uckun (NASA Ames Research Center), and George Vachtsevanos (Georgia Institute of Technology)

- **Cognitive Approaches to NLP.** *Organizers:* Jerry Ball (Air Force Research Laboratory), Krishna Jha (Lockheed Martin Advanced Technologies Laboratories), Sergei Nirenburg (University of Maryland Baltimore County), Marjorie McShane (University of Maryland Baltimore County)
 - **Computational Approaches to Representation Change during Learning and Development.** *Cochairs:* Clayton T. Morrison (University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute) and Tim Oates (University of Maryland Baltimore County)
 - **Emergent Agents and Socialities: Social and Organizational Aspects of Intelligence.** *Cochairs:* Goran Trajkovski and Samuel Collins (Towson University)
 - **Intelligent Narrative Technologies.** *Cochairs:* Brian Magerko (Michigan State University) and Mark Riedl (University of Southern California)
 - **Regarding the "Intelligence" in Distributed Intelligent Systems.** *Organizers:* Margaret Lyell (Intelligent Automation, Inc.), Elisa Kendall (Sandpiper Software), Walt Truszkowski (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center), Tim Finin (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), Lalana Kagal (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Jason Li (Intelligent Automation, Inc.)
- An informal reception will be held on Friday, November 9. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented,

will be held on Saturday, November 10. 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. Working notes will be prepared and distributed to participants in each symposium, but will not otherwise be available unless published as an AAAI Technical Report or edited collection.

The final deadline for registration is October 12, 2007. For registration information, please contact AAAI at fss07@aaai.org or visit AAAI's web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss07.php). A hotel room block has been reserved at the Westin. The cut-off date for reservations is October 9, 2007. Please call 1-888-627-7076 for further information, or reserve a room online via the URL above.

2008 Spring Symposium Series Call for Participation

AAAI presents the 2008 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Wednesday - Friday, March 26-28, 2007, at Stanford University. The titles of the eight symposia will be as follows:

- **AI Meets Business Rules and Business Process Management.** Knut Hinkelmann (Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Switzerland, knut.hinkelmann@fhnw.ch)
- **Creative Intelligent Systems.** Dan Ventura (Brigham Young University, ventura@cs.byu.edu)
- **Emotion, Personality, and Social Behavior.** Eva Hudlicka (Psychometrix Associates, hudlicka@ieee.org)
- **Intelligent Agent Architectures for Theory-Based Agents.** Marcello Balducci (Texas Tech University, marcello.balducci@ttu.edu)
- **Semantic Scientific Knowledge Integration.** Deborah McGuinness (Stanford University, dlm@ksl.stanford.edu)
- **Social Information Processing.** Kristina Lerman (University of Southern California/Information Sciences Institute, lerman@isi.edu)
- **Symbiotic Relationships between Semantic Web and Knowledge Engineering.** Derek Sleeman (University of Aberdeen, Scotland, sleeman@csd.abdn.ac.uk)
- **Using AI to Motivate Greater Participation in Computer Science.** Mehran

Sahami (Stanford University, sahami@cs.stanford.edu)

Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. Working notes will be prepared and distributed to participants in each symposium. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Thursday, March 27, and an informal reception will be held on Wednesday, March 26. 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. Registration information will be available by December 15, 2007. For details, please contact AAAI at sss08@aaai.org or visit our web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss08.php).

Submissions for the symposia are due on October 5, 2007. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 2, 2007. Material to be included in the working notes of the symposium must be received by January 25, 2008. The complete call for participation is available at the URL listed above.

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 2008.

To submit a candidate's names for consideration, please send the individ-

ual'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, 2007.

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The Executive Council of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence met on March 25, 2007, in Palo Alto, California.

Attending: Alan Mackworth, David Aha, Ron Brachman, Anthony Cohn, Lise Getoor, Maria Gini, Eric Horvitz, Kevin Knight, David Leake, Karen Myers, David Musliner, Michael Pazzani, Ted Senator, Holly Yanco, Sebastian Thrun, Mike Hamilton, Carol Hamilton.

Not Attending: Marie desJardins, Oren Etzioni, Yolanda Gil, Illah Nourbakhsh, Peter Stone

The meeting was called to order by AAAI President Alan Mackworth at 9:00 am. Mackworth noted that this was the first meeting of the association with its new name, the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence. Introductions were made by members of the Executive Council, and the minutes of the previous meeting in July 2006, which had been circulated for review prior to the meeting, were formally approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance

Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator reported that the return on investments during the past year has been good (13.5 percent gross), but the management fees remain too high (1.1 percent). He submitted an in-depth financial analysis, with the following recommended actions for the Executive Director or the Finance Committee: 1) Pursue refund of excess management fees paid to Morgan Stanley due to their failure to convert the Brandywine investment account from the Vision to Access programs; 2) Investigate alternative in-

vestment advisors who provide low-cost, institutional services for similar organizations in a wide range of asset classes; 3) Determine how to reallocate equity portfolio if an alternate advisor is found; 4) Establish on-line account access to Morgan Stanley accounts for access to month-end reports in a more timely manner.

The operating deficit for 2007 was approximately \$450,000, which was more than \$200,000 less than anticipated, largely due to a very successful conference, but also to unanticipated increased revenue in several other areas. The goal is to bring the deficit down to \$300,000 from a high of \$1.2 million several years ago. Senator noted that AAAI dispenses approximately \$110,000 in grants, awards, conference subsidies, and student scholarships.

Awards/Fellows/Nominating

Past President Ron Brachman, who serves as Chair of all three of these committees, noted that the Awards Committee was currently reviewing nominations for the Classic Paper Award for the 1988 conference and the Distinguished Service Award. He encouraged Council members to send additional nominations to the committee. The Fellows Selection Committee was reviewing 30 nominations, and Brachman noted that it was a very strong group of candidates, making the selection very difficult. The Nominating Committee had selected a president-elect candidate and a slate of eight councilors. The ballot will be sent to the membership in April. Brachman reported that the question of international Council members and their ability to attend meetings was discussed by the Nominating Committee, but they did not feel this was an issue at this time. However, participation at the meetings is vital, so this should be made clear to all candidates.

Conference

Carol Hamilton submitted the report for Yolanda Gil, chair of the Conference Committee. In general, submissions in most areas were up, with the largest technical paper submission ever at 976. Student abstracts also saw a significant rise in submissions, almost doubling from 2006, and exceeding all previous years since 1996. Doctoral

Consortium submissions also rose by 45 percent.

The technical program continues to have two special tracks in AI & the Web and Integrated Intelligence, as well as Nectar and Senior Member papers. It is likely that there will be additional parallel tracks this year, as all accepted papers will be given oral presentation slots. Poster presentation slots will be given to papers of the highest quality; those that involve complex systems; or those that cover multiple concepts that would benefit from a more visual presentation. The program chairs also initiated a “conditional accept” category this year, which will allow a select group of authors to improve their papers in response to the reviewers’ recommendations. The papers will be reread at the time of final submission to be sure that the authors complied with the recommendations before publication is approved.

Several issues arose during the review process this year that the Conference Committee will be reviewing, including several cases of plagiarism, dual submissions, and how to address the issue of confidentiality in dealing with these problems. The Conference Committee is expected to include more specific language about AAAI’s requirements with regard to these issues in the online CFP and will also give more explicit instructions to reviewers. The Publications Committee will also be reviewing the issue of plagiarism, but it was noted that the copyright form makes it explicit that all material must be original throughout at the time of publication.

The IAAI conference had accepted 22 papers for inclusion in their program, a few on a conditional basis. They will also have three invited speakers, including the Robert S. Englemore Memorial Award Lecture. A short discussion took place about the small number of submissions that this conference receives as opposed to the more technical conferences. It was noted that the lack of incentives for publication in the commercial sector and the protection of patent pending information are both deterrents.

The registration fee structure for the AAAI/IAAI conference was modified in

2007 to include a graduated workshop fee schedule and a workshop only fee. The Executive Committee will review the effectiveness of this model in the fall during the preparation of the 2008 budget. Sponsorship for the conference was down from 2006, and the Council was asked to send any suggestions for prospects to Carol Hamilton, who will continue to build sponsorship in the coming months.

Yolanda Gil submitted an interim report on AIIDE, recommending a decision about the continuation of AAAI’s sponsorship be made after five years. It is due for review this year, having completed its third year. Gil noted that the conference has created a community within AI. It also includes a number of enthusiasts from industry, but this support needs to grow. Although the submissions were down again for 2007, the conference is perceived as having great value for the community it has created. The 2007 organizers have taken several steps to strengthen the conference, including the formation of an Executive Committee to advise on how to make the conference more attractive, especially to industry participants; the inclusion of ten invited speakers from industry in the 2007 program; and the relocation of the conference from Marina del Rey to Stanford. They have also added a “Published Game Track,” aimed at attracting submissions about designing game AI for a real game, and have increased their advertising to industry. One important issue for AIIDE is that the game industry does not generally attend conferences, except the Game Developers Conference (GDC). It is unclear whether closer cooperation with this conference is possible or beneficial. The Council agreed that further discussion will take place after AIIDE-07 at the summer meeting. Jonathan Schaeffer, AIIDE-07 Conference Chair, will submit a detailed report for Council review.

Conference Outreach. Chair Lise Getoor reported that the committee has received a very enthusiastic response to its first round of invitations to area conferences for AAAI cooperation. Approximately 30–35 conferences were invited, and individual requests continue to come in as well.

There were 24 cooperating conferences by the time of the meeting, more than double that for 2006. AAAI tries to be responsive to individual conference concerns, sometimes modifying requirements, if necessary, for budget or other reasons. The committee will be reviewing the guidelines for cooperation in the coming months, and will make them available online for the 2008 applicants. In addition, invitations will be renewed in the fall of each year on an ongoing basis. The final list of cooperating conferences will be circulated to the Council for further suggestions.

Membership. Chair Holly Yanco reported that she is in the process of putting together a new committee, and defining the goal and scope of the committee. She noted that membership levels have been fairly stable for the past three years, but that she would like to see membership levels increase. The committee will be reviewing the current benefits and will be conducting a membership survey in fall 2008. Kevin Knight volunteered to serve on the committee.

Publications. Chair David Leake noted that each council member received an *AI Magazine* mug, and hopes that will serve as a reminder to submit articles to the magazine, as well as to encourage others to do so. He reported that the summer issue of the magazine will be a special issue on mixed initiative reasoning, coedited by Gheorge Tecuci, Mihai Boicu, and Michael Cox. The fall issue will be the annual Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence issue, edited by Bruce Porter and William Cheetham. AAAI Press editor Tony Cohn noted that 16 new technical reports have been added to the AAAI library for the fall and spring symposia. In addition, the Press will publish at least six proceedings in 2007, including that for AAAI-07/IAAI-07, and the hard copy versions of *JAIR*. Cohn encouraged council members to direct good proposals for edited collections to the AAAI Press.

Leake reported that he was working on the development of the anniversary poster, and held a planning meeting at Stanford in March. The poster is expected to be of an educational na-

ture, and will hopefully have international distribution, either as an insert in *AI Magazine* or through collaboration with international societies.

Alan Mackworth asked the Publications Committee to continue its review of institutional access to AAAI publications, noting that there are several models being tried, such as the consortium model. The Council agreed that this is a complex issue, and needs to be studied from several different angles.

Symposium. Chair Karen Myers reported that the 2007 Spring Symposium registration was up from 2006 due to the fact that there is an additional symposium being held. The Fall Symposium, however, experienced some problems with a cancelled symposium, shortened symposia, and poor attendance. Holly Yanco, who was involved in some of the efforts to correct these problems, reported that she felt the problems were isolated to that particular event. The proposals are reviewed quite thoroughly by the committee, but they will make sure that all future chairs are notified repeatedly about the commitment to organize a successful symposium.

Old Business

Computing Research Association (CRA). Alan Mackworth presented a report submitted by AAAI's liaison to CRA, Marie desJardins. CRA held its annual Computing Leadership Summit in February, which featured presentations from representatives from the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI), the Image Task Force, and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Key issues included IT funding, the Image of Computing Task Force, and the Computing Community Consortium.

desJardins reported that Congress agreed to fund the previously approved increases in NSF funding for FY07. The largest increases will be seen in CISE (9 percent). For next year a 10 percent (\$90M) additional increase in NSF's budget has been requested, as well as a 10 percent increase at NIST.

The Image of Computing Task Force has hired Jill Ross to be their executive director. The mission of this task force is to improve the image of computing

in the public eye and students' perception, and desJardins will serve as a member. The Computing Community Consortium is a large (\$6M/3 years) NSF grant to CRA with the goal of "Defining the Large-Scale Infrastructure Needs of the Computing Research Community." The focus is on identifying grand challenges and "visions" for computing research. There is an interim CCC Council, and a permanent council will soon be named. Mackworth noted that our nominee for the interim council was not chosen, but that we hoped to have someone on the permanent council.

At the winter CRA board meeting, it was announced that the report from the recent NIH/CRA Workshop on Computing and Biomedicine will be available soon. The 2007 CRA Distinguished Service Awards will go to Peter Freeman and John A. Hopcroft, and the A. Nico Habermann Award will go to Janice Cuny. CRA will be establishing a new permanent committee, CRA-E, to focus on issues of computing education. CRA-W will hold a Career Mentoring Workshop in June, and CREU applications are due in May.

Finally, according to the most recent Taulbee Survey, Ph.D. production in computer science is up 26 percent from the previous year, but is expected to decline slightly in future years. Fewer of these students took academic positions than in previous years; more Ph.D. graduates are going into industry. The proportion of women was up somewhat (18 percent, compared to 15 percent the previous year). Master's and bachelor's degrees were down 13 percent and 15 percent, respectively. One promising note is that enrollment of freshman computer-science majors was up 10 percent.

AAAI Name Change Update. Alan Mackworth reported that the association name change is now complete, and was pleased to note the overwhelming enthusiasm of the membership for this change. He thanked AAAI staff for all their efforts in making this transition so smooth.

Sibling AI Societies. Alan Mackworth reported that the biannual meeting of international AI societies was held at IJCAI-07 in India. In gen-

eral, other societies understood that AAAI's name change was meant to reflect the current reality of its membership, conference submissions and attendance, and publication authors. Mackworth reassured the group that AAAI's mission and activities will change only in response to the needs of its members. A discussion was held on how to form a better network among international societies for their mutual benefit, such as the cosponsorship of workshops. The need for a coordinating body was expressed. Mackworth will follow up with IJCAI to see if any decision has been made about this.

Video Project. Bruce Buchanan presented a report on the AAAI Video Archive Pilot Project, funded by the National Science Foundation. The goal of the project is to preserve the video record of AI and make video segments available for pedagogical purposes. The project seeks to create a virtual archive of videos that have been archived in institutional archives, working with libraries to archive copies for posterity; to collect videos from the AAAI membership, either by noting URLs of existing online videos or by digitizing them, using the services of libraries already involved in this process; and, finally, to extract and index short clips for pedagogical use, which will be searchable through AI Topics. Buchanan and Reid Smith have met with CSAIL, MIT, the Stanford University Library, and the Carnegie Mellon Library, all of which are currently involved in digitizing movies and videos. They hope to collaborate with these institutions on creating archival copies within their standards for metadata, fair use, and so on. A prototype wiki site has been created, and index terms from several sources have been collected and merged. Additional funding will be sought to ensure steady progress on the project. Buchanan asked council members to send him suggestions for possible video sources.

AAAI Sponsorship. Since the last meeting, Eric Horvitz formed an ad hoc committee to study the long-range plan for securing AAAI sponsorships. In the past, sponsorship solicitation has been done largely through



Outgoing AAAI President Alan Mackworth Passes the Gavel to Incoming AAAI President Eric Horvitz at the Annual Business Meeting in Vancouver, BC.

the office, with some support from intermittent conference sponsorship chairs. While this has provided a good base, the committee agrees there are many more opportunities to explore. They recommend establishing a one-year position of sponsorship chair, which could report to the president-elect, thereby maintaining some continuity during this two-year term. A sponsorship committee would also be formed and meet quarterly to discuss status and opportunities. Choosing the sponsorship chair would be the responsibility of the president-elect and the conference chair. The sponsorship committee will work with the executive director to establish guidelines and schedules. Horvitz stressed the importance of continuity and memory in the process, as well as the understanding of organizational constraints and funding mechanisms and budgets. The sponsorship chair will be charged with collecting some information about effective practices used by other conference sponsorship chairs. The committee also recommended that all fundraising efforts be coordinated through the main AAAI sponsorship chair, including those for subprograms at the annual conference. In addition, multiyear arrangements should be sought, perhaps allowing for sponsor names to be associated with specific

programs. Suggestions for an individual donation box on the membership form or the creation of special levels of AAAI membership were also considered. The committee will review all suggestions, and make a final recommendation at the summer meeting.

IJCAI-09 Update. Carol Hamilton reported that Rich Doyle, local arrangements chair, has formed a Local Arrangements Committee, including several representatives from JPL, USC/ICT, UC Irvine, and southern California aerospace companies. Hotel contracts were signed in the fall of 2006, and the convention center contract is forthcoming. Doyle has also been working on the conference logo and has produced a promotional postcard for distribution in 2007. Two sponsor pledges had been secured already. The Third International Conference on Space Mission Challenges for Information Technology will be collocated with IJCAI-09.

AAAI-08/AAAI-10. AAAI-08 will be held in Chicago at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. Conference program cochairs will be Dieter Fox (University of Washington) and Carla Gomes (Cornell University). Proposals for 2010 are still being solicited for an east coast venue.

Executive Council Site. Alan

Mackworth suggested that a web page be created for posting Executive Council minutes and reports. Carol Hamilton agreed to circulate access instructions to council members as soon as this is ready.

IJCAI/JAIR Prize. Alan Mackworth reported that Toby Walsh, the editor of *JAIR*, had requested a time slot to present the IJCAI-*JAIR* Best Paper Prize during AAAI-07. IJCAI-07 was held before the decision about this award was made. The Council agreed that this was appropriate, given AAAI's ongoing cooperation with IJCAI and *JAIR*, and the fact that AAAI publishes the hard copy of *JAIR*. The award will be presented during the opening ceremony of AAAI-07.

Strategic Planning. Ron Brachman noted that a meeting of the Strategic Planning Board was held in July 2006 during AAAI-07 in Boston, with many past presidents in attendance. The discussion focused mainly on the proposed association name change. Brachman hopes to hold another meeting in Vancouver, when Alan Mackworth will take over as chair of this group. Brachman also hopes to expand the membership of the group to include other visionary members of the field, concentrating mainly on past councilors, who would have some experience with the business of the association. Past presidents would serve in an advisory role for this newly formed committee.

The Council discussed several potential topics for the committee to consider, including the role of AAAI Fellows as a resource for the organization and the community; fundraising or sponsorship assistance; a review of our commitment to CRA and our government affairs activity; the creation of a renewed set of grand challenges; the issues facing computer science in the undergraduate curriculum; the role of the conference as we move forward; the investigation of a PBS special on AI; and an examination of where the organization wants to be in fifteen years.

Out of this discussion, came the seeds for the AI video competition, which David Aha and Sebastian Thrun pursued for AAAI-07.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.