

First AAAI Feigenbaum Prize Awarded!

AAAI is delighted to announce that Sebastian Thrun, professor of computer science and electrical engineering and director of the Stanford AI Lab at Stanford University, and William A. "Red" Whittaker, professor, Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, have been selected as the winners of the inaugural 2011 AAAI Feigenbaum Prize. This prize is awarded biennially to recognize and encourage outstanding artificial intelligence research advances that are made by using experimental methods of computer science. Thrun and Whittaker, whose teams won the 2005 DARPA Grand Challenge and 2007 DARPA Urban Challenge, respectively, are being recognized in particular for high-impact contributions to the field of artificial intelligence through innovation and achievement in autonomous vehicle research, transitioning the concept of an autonomous vehicle from the realm of fiction to reality. The associated cash prize of \$10,000 is provided by the Feigenbaum Nii Foundation. The prize will be presented during the opening ceremony of AAAI-11, to be held Tuesday, August 9, at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco.

Join Us for AAAI-11, IAAI-11, and EAAI-11!

We hope you are planning to join us for AAAI-11, and colocated events IAAI-11 and EAAI-11, in San Francisco, August 7-11, 2011. The AAAI-11 technical program will kick off with the opening reception in the Hyatt Regency San Francisco on the evening of Monday, August 8, followed by the presentation of the annual AI Video Competition Awards. On Tuesday morning, August 9, the program chairs will welcome attendees, and conference and AAAI awards will be presented. The awards ceremony will be followed by a special panel celebrating the 25th anniversary of the AAAI conference (visit the AAAI-11 website at www.aaai.org/aaai11 for more details).

The AAAI-11 program will feature invited talks by 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). A special Joint IAAI-11/AAAI-11 Invited Talk by David Ferrucci (IBM T. J. Watson Research Center) on "Building Watson: An Overview of DeepQA for the Jeopardy! Challenge" will immediately follow the opening ceremony and panel for AAAI. The recipient of the 2011 Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Award, Ramon Lopez de Mantaras (Artificial Intelligence Research Institute and Spanish National Research Council), will deliver his lecture during IAAI-11, as will Dave Gunning (Vulcan Inc.), who will speak on "HaloBook and Progress Towards Digital Aristotle."

The second AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI) will also be colocated with AAAI-11, and will be integrated into several facets of the conference, including the workshop program, the robotics events, the video competition, and the poster session. A series of technical papers and invited talks will be presented in parallel with a portion of the AAAI-11 technical conference. The EAAI symposium provides a venue for AI researchers involved in education to share their innovative approaches to education and teaching.

The AAAI-11 technical program will include 180 oral presentations in the main track, as well as 60 additional presentations in the special tracks on AI and the Web, Computational Sustainability and AI, Integrated Intelligence, Physically Grounded AI, and

Nectar, as well as poster presentations by a select number of exceptional technical papers, short papers, student abstracts, and doctoral consortium abstracts. The IAAI-11 technical program will feature talks on five award-winning deployed AI applications and 14 emerging applications. The week is filled with a host of other programs, including the AI Video Competition, the AI Poker Competition, the expanded Mobile Robotics Program, and an extensive tutorial and workshop program.

Registration for AAAI-11, IAAI-11, and EAAI-11 is included in one joint fee. Workshop and tutorial registration is extra. For complete conference program and registration information, please visit www.aaai.org/aaai11. AAAI has reserved a block of rooms at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. Please connect through www.aaai.org/aaai11 or go directly to the hotel reservation link at resweb.passkey.com/go/AAAI2011 to make your reservation. To qualify for the discounted rate, your reservation must be completed no later than Friday, July 15, 2011. We hope to see you in San Francisco!

Save the Dates for AAAI-12 and AAAI-13!

AAAI will return to Canada in 2012 with the Twenty-Sixth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-12) and the Twenty-Fourth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-12)! The conferences will be held July 22–26, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. For more information as it becomes available,

AAAI News

Summer News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence



AAAI-11 in San Francisco

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

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

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail 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, 2011.

AAAI 2012 Spring Symposium Series

The 2012 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 26-28, 2012 at Stanford University. The Call for Participation will be available in August on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss12.php). Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 7, 2011. For more information, please contact the symposium chair, Chad Jenkins, at cjenkins@cs.brown.edu or AAAI at sss12@aaai.org. A preliminary list of symposia will be available at the SSS-12 website in July.

please visit www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai12.php.

The Twenty-Seventh AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-13) and the Twenty-Fifth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-13) 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 later this year.

Executive Council Nominations

Every two years, the AAAI membership elects an individual to serve a two-year term as President-Elect, followed by two years as President, and, finally, two years as immediate Past President. In addition, 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 one candidate for President-Elect and eight candidates

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council Meeting was held July 12, 2010, in Atlanta, Georgia

Attending: Henry Kautz, Manuela Veloso, Eric Horvitz, Ted Senator, Tony Cohn, Dieter Fox, Maria Fox, Amy Greenwald (via teleconference), Adele Howe, Gal Kaminka, Subbarao Kambhampati, David Leake, Mark Maybury (via teleconference), Tuomas Sandholm, Jonathan Schaeffer, Alan Schultz (via teleconference), David E. Smith, Rich Sutton, Bart Selman, Toby Walsh, Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton

Not Attending: Cynthia Breazeal, Carla Brodley, Claire Cardie, Sheila McIlraith, Yoav Shoham

AAAI president Henry Kautz convened the meeting at 9:15 am. He welcomed the new members of the council, including president-elect Manuela Veloso (Carnegie Mellon University), and the four newly elected councilors: Maria Fox (University of Strathclyde, UK), Adele Howe (Colorado State University, USA), Jonathan Schaeffer (University of Alberta, Canada), and Toby Walsh (NICTA, Australia). At the same time, he thanked the retiring members of the Council for all their contributions during the past several years: Councilors Sheila McIlraith, Rich Sutton, David E. Smith, and Cynthia Breazeal.

The minutes of the March 21, 2010 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 read the handout describing these duties, and also 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: Ted Senator directed the Council's attention to the total operating expenses line in the financial statement, as this is the line that captures the overall budget activity for the Association. Senator noted that the annual operating deficit had been successfully reduced to approximately 5% in 2009, and was expected to be lower than that in 2010. This is an acceptable level of withdrawal for a non-profit organization.

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 David McAllester and David Rosenblitt for their AAAI-90 paper, "Systematic Nonlinear Planning", and the Distinguished Service Award honored Alan K. Mackworth (University of

British Columbia) for his outstanding service to artificial intelligence, including seminal scientific contributions in constraint-based representations and methods, with pioneering efforts in machine vision, robotics, and situated agents, and his sustained service in numerous key leadership roles, including the presidencies of

AAAI, IJCAI, and the Canadian Society for Computational Studies of Intelligence (CSCSI), amidst a lifetime of catalyzing and promoting AI research. The Fellows Committee elected eight new fellows in 2010, including Pedro Domingos (University of Washington), Nicholas R. Jennings (University of Southampton), Michael L. Littman



ICWSM

Fifth International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media

17–21 July 2011 • Barcelona, Spain

Sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

There Is Still Time to Register for ICWSM-11!

The Fifth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held in Barcelona, Spain, July 17-21, and will be collocated with IJCAI-11. This interdisciplinary conference brings together researchers from the disciplines in computer science, linguistics, communication, and the social sciences. The broad goal of ICWSM is to increase understanding of social media in all its incarnations.

In addition to the main conference program of contributed technical talks, poster presentations, and invited presentations, the conference will include a tutorial program and an expanded workshop program with an additional workshop day. ICWSM-11 will feature an impressive line-up of keynote speakers, including Sinan Aral of the NYU Stern School of Business and affiliated faculty at MIT, and Manuel Castells, director of the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), Spain. Jimmy Lin will present an industrial keynote address on "Twitter and Data Science." Additionally, three invited talks will be given by Foster Provost (New York University), Joel Seligstein (Facebook), and Duncan Watts (Yahoo! Research). A joint opening reception will be held with IJCAI-11 on July 18 at the Palau Musica Catalina in Barcelona.

Registration information is available at the ICWSM-11 website (www.icwsml.org). After July 1, please plan to register on-site, beginning July 17, in the foyer of the Imagina Auditorium, Avinguda Diagonal, 177, planta 9, 08018 Barcelona, Spain. For full details about the conference program, please visit the ICWSM-11 website or write to icwsml1@aaai.org.



Seventh AAAI Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-11)

Save the Date! October 11–14, 2011

Please join us for AIIDE-11, to be held October 11–14, 2011 at Stanford University in Stanford, California. AIIDE is 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, AIIDE invites researchers and developers to share their insights and cutting-edge results on all topics at the intersection of all forms of entertainment and artificial intelligence, including serious games, entertainment robotics, art, and beyond. The program will include invited speakers, research and industry presentations, project demonstrations, interactive poster sessions, and product exhibits. Registration information and other program details will be available on the AIIDE-11 website at www.aiide.org/aiide11 later this summer. Please send inquiries to aiide11@aaai.org, to conference chair Vadim Bulitko (University of Alberta), or to program chair Mark Riedl (Georgia Institute of Technology).

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, August 8, 2011 in the Hyatt Regency San Francisco during AAAI-11.

Support AAAI Open Access

AAAI wishes to thank 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."

(Rutgers University), Christopher D. Manning (Stanford University), Bernhard Nebel (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg), Yoram Singer (Google),

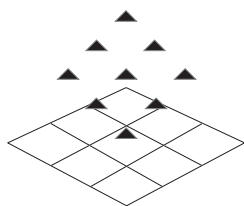
Padhraic Smyth (University of California, Irvine), and Moshe Tennenholtz (Technion - Israel Institute of Technology). They were to be honored during

the annual Fellows dinner at AAAI-10. The Nominating Committee put together a slate of one presidential candidate and eight councilors. The presidential candidate will now run in even years because of the shift in the presidential offices earlier in 2010. The newly elected members of the Council are listed at the beginning of these minutes.

Horvitz noted that it was decided that the first Feigenbaum Prize would be delayed by one year to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the AAAI conference in San Francisco, and also to build visibility and nominations for the prize. Maria Fox, AAAI-10 program cochair, announced that the following conference awards would be presented at the opening ceremony for AAAI-10. The AAAI-10 Outstanding Paper Award went to two papers: "A Novel Transition Based Encoding Scheme for Planning as Satisfiability" by Ruoyun Huang, Yixin Chen, and Weixiong Zhang (Washington University in St. Louis) and "How Incomplete Is your Semantic Web Reasoner? Systematic Analysis of the Completeness of Query Answering Systems" by Giorgos Stoilos, Bernardo Cuenca Grau, and Ian Horrocks (Oxford University). Two members of the AAAI-10 program committee were honored for their outstanding service: (1) Senior Program Committee member Jerome Lang (IRIT, Université Paul Sabatier, France) and (2) Program Committee member Chris Beck (University of Toronto, Canada).

Carol Hamilton also noted that the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award was being given to Jay M. Tenenbaum (CollabRx Inc.) for his pioneering artificial intelligence contributions with extensive applications impact, including seminal work in computer vision and manufacturing along with a visionary role in the birth of electronic commerce, and four AAAI-10 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 three winning categories.

Conference Outreach: Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI lent cooperation to over twenty conferences in 2010. She



2011 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The 2011 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 4–6, at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The Symposium Series will be preceded on Thursday, November 3 by a one-day AI Funding Seminar. The titles of the eight symposia are:

- Advances in Cognitive Systems — Pat Langley (Arizona State University)
- Building Representations of Common Ground with Intelligent Agents — Wende Frost (Naval Research Lab)
- Complex Adaptive Systems: Energy, Information and Intelligence — Ted Carmichael and Mirsad Hadzikadic (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)
- Multiagent Coordination under Uncertainty — Pradeep Varakantham (Singapore Management University)
- Open Government Knowledge: AI Opportunities and Challenges — Lalana Kagal (MIT) and Li Ding (RPI)
- Question Generation — Rashmi Prasad (Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania)
- Robot-Human Teamwork in Contingency Operating Environments — Flora Pirri (Auto Agent Laboratory for Cognitive Robotics, University of Rome)

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/fss11.php. Invited participants must register by September 16, and the final registration deadline is October 14. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Westin is 5:00 PM EDT, October 10, 2011. The discounted room rate of \$169.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date. Contact information for the Westin will be included in the registration materials.

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 conference

outreach program does not include formal society cooperation agreements or other international outreach. The Council will seek these types of affiliations through its newly formed international committee. AAAI main-

tains a formal agreement with IJCAI, and other conferences for which it publishes proceedings or provides other services, such as ICAPS, FLAIRS, KR, and RoboCup.

Development: Carol Hamilton reported that efforts to broaden the scope of the AAAI development program had been unsuccessful, partly due to the current economic environment. However, despite these challenges, AAAI had received over \$140,000 in sponsorship. Most of this money, however, was targeted for specific programs, such as the Doctoral Consortium or Robotics. General conference sponsorship was about \$50,000. Hamilton noted that other small conferences continue to have a sponsorship chair, or a local arrangements chair that facilitates development efforts. The council suggested that the conference committee appoint a chair for this purpose. However, efforts to establish a broad-based development effort should continue.

Publications: David Leake reported that the *AI Magazine* Editorial Board had been expanded to include six new members, including Ashok Goel (Georgia Institute of Technology), Wolfgang Wahlster (German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence and Saarland University), Sven Koenig (University of Southern California), Ramasamy Uthrusamy (General Motors, retired), Hector Muñoz-Avila (Lehigh University), and Sandip Sen (University of Tulsa). He also thanked the retiring members: Boi Faltings, Janice Glasgow, Kristian Hammond, Patrick J. Hayes, Stephen Muggleton, Bruce Porter, Martha Pollack, and Robert St. Amant. The fall issue of the magazine will be a special issue on Question Answering, with guest editors David Gunning (Vulcan, Inc.), Vinay Chaudhri (SRI International), and Chris Welty (IBM). The winter and spring issues are also expected to be special issues, a format that has proven successful for the magazine in recent years. Tony Cohn reported that AAAI Press will publish eight proceedings in 2010, including AIIDE, FLAIRS, ICAPS, ICCCD, ICWSM, KR, SoCS, and the comprehensive AAAI/IAAI/EAAI 3-volume set, the largest proceedings to date. The Press will also add the latest

Member News

Eric Horvitz and Michael Jordan elected to AAAS!

AAAI congratulates AAAI Fellows Eric Horvitz and Michael Jordan on being elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences 2011 Class of Members. The 212 new members join one of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies and a leading center for independent policy research. Members contribute to Academy studies of science and technology policy, global security, social policy and American institutions, the humanities, and education. The new class will be inducted at a ceremony on October 1, at the Academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Since its founding in 1780 by John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock, and other scholar-patriots, the Academy has elected leading "thinkers and doers" from each generation, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in the eighteenth century, Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the nineteenth, and Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill in the twentieth. The current membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates and more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners.

In Memoriam

AAAI notes with regret that David Rumelhart passed away March 13, 2011 after a long battle with Pick's disease. He was a pioneer in the field of cognitive neuroscience and explored the concept of connectionism — the idea that no single neuron in the human brain does its job alone in processing information. Rumelhart's computer simulations of perception gave scientists some of the first testable models of neural processing and proved helpful in the development of machine learning and artificial intelligence. Rumelhart and his research team, including James L. (Jay) McClelland, created computer models in the 1970s and 1980s that simulated human perception, language understanding, memory and a wide range of other cognitive tasks. He and McClelland wrote *Parallel Distributed Processing: Explorations in the Microstructure of Cognition*, a book that brought the concept of connectionism to a wider audience of psychologists, neuroscientists and computer scientists. Rumelhart did his undergraduate work in psychology and mathematics at the University of South Dakota. He earned his doctorate at Stanford in 1967 and spent 20 years on the faculty of the University of California, San Diego, before returning to Stanford in 1987. Rumelhart received many professional awards, including a MacArthur fellowship and the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award. In 2000, the Glushko-Samuelson Foundation established the Rumelhart Prize, a \$100,000 award given annually to scientists who make a significant contribution to the theoretical foundations of human cognition. He was elected a AAAI Fellow in 1990.

first online journal in the coming months for the *Journal of Human-Robot Interaction*. The OJS and OCS systems, which contain the AAAI Digital Library, were recently upgraded, which will improve the indexing for AAAI publications in Google Scholar. The Council made several suggestions for consideration by the AI Magazine and Publications Committees, including the establishment of a blog, a point/counterpoint feature in *AI Magazine*, a presidential column in *AI Magazine*, a letters to the editor section, and a historical column. David Leake will continue to broaden the features of the magazine in response to these suggestions.

Membership: Gal Kaminka and Mark Maybury noted that membership has declined slightly since 2009. Carol Hamilton noted several reasons for this, including the economy, the lack of a membership rate for IJCAI-09, the AAAI open access initiative, and the suspension of student scholarships (students had to be AAAI members to qualify). Kaminka and Maybury made three proposals to retain and attract new members, as follows: (1) Establish a senior member program; (2) Allow group leaders to sign up multiple students or regular members in a batch; (3) Extend platinum memberships to include three and five year options. All suggestions were approved. The senior member program eligibility requirements and benefits were discussed, and the guidelines will be finalized by Awards Committee Chair Eric Horvitz and Carol Hamilton. It was decided that an application and references would be required, that there would be a limited number of people accepted each year for the program, and that there would be no application fee. For the batch memberships, AAAI will offer a form, where a group leader can list potential members and their email addresses, and pay for their memberships with one payment. However, each new member must be contacted individually for complete contact information in order to comply with membership record requirements. The Council also briefly discussed a reduced fee for retired members, or members who have been members for "x" number of years, but no decision

volumes of JAIR, and expand its technical report series to include reports from the two symposium series and the various workshop programs – over

25 reports in 2010. The technical reports are now distributed on CD to symposium and workshop registrants. AAAI Press also hopes to launch its

was reached on this issue. Finally, it was decided that the differential in cost for a US/Canada membership and an international membership be eliminated in 2011. Carol Hamilton will review the current membership fees and make a proposal to the Executive Committee to implement this decision.

Conference: Dieter Fox reported that attendance at AAAI-10 is down somewhat from 2008. The most significant factor may be the conflict in time with the ACL conferences; other factors may include the economy and the hot venue. It is hoped that San Francisco will be a very attractive venue for 2011. The AAAI conference continues to expand with special tracks and a new Educational Advances in AI Symposium. Technical submissions to the conference were the largest ever at 982 papers, which were submitted to the main track, AI and Bioinformatics, AI & the Web, Challenges in AI, Integrated Intelligence, and the Physically Grounded AI track, plus those submitted to the Nectar and Senior Member tracks. The Council discussed the possibility of retiring some tracks, or adding new ones. The Council suggested that the conference committee establish guidelines about how the tracks are chosen so that there is continuity in the program, as well as a mechanism for discontinuing unsuccessful tracks.

The conference will include a keynote address by Leslie Pack Kaelbling, as well as invited talks by Carla P. Gomes (Cornell University), Barry O'Sullivan (University College Cork), David C. Parkes (Harvard University), and Michael Thielscher (University of New South Wales), and IAAI talks by Jay Martin Tenenbaum (CollabRx Inc.), Majd Alwan (Center for Aging Services Technologies), and Vernor Vinge (San Diego State University). All invited talks will be videotaped and included at the VideoLectures.net site. Special programs will include the General Game Playing Competition, the Poker Competition, the Robotics Workshop and Exhibition (including the Learning by Demonstration Challenge, the Small Scale Manipulation Challenge: Robotic Chess, and the Robotics Education Track), the Student

Abstract and Poster Session, the Doctoral Consortium, 15 tutorials, and 13 workshops. Of particular concern to the Council was the anticipated drop in tutorial attendance. After some discussion, it was decided to eliminate the extra fee for tutorial attendance. The Council also encouraged the Conference Committee to experiment with various ideas for tutorial formats, such as short tutorials or invited tutorials.

Fox also reported that the AIIDE 2009 conference saw an increase in submission, but attendance fell due to the economic strain on travel budgets. For 2010, AIIDE has added the AIIDE 2010 Starcraft Competition, which enables academic researchers to evaluate their AI systems in a robust commercial RTS environment, and is sponsored by Blizzard Entertainment. The ICWSM conference had an increase in both submissions and attendance, and was back in a growth pattern. Invited presentations included two keynote addresses by Bob Kraut (Carnegie Mellon University) and Michael Kearns (University of Pennsylvania), and other talks by Macon Phillips (U.S. White House, Head of New Media), James Pennebaker (Department of Psychology, University of Texas), Nicole Ellison (Department of Telecommunications, Michigan State University), S. Craig Watkins (Department of Radio, TV, and Film, University of Texas), Don Burke (CIA, Intellipedia), and Haym Hirsh (NSF IIS). ICWSM-10 expanded its tutorial program to four tutorials, and all were well attended. The ICWSM committee raised \$19,500 in sponsorship, and the entire conference was videotaped and added to the AAAI VideoLectures.net site.

Symposium: Alan Schultz reported that the committee has had difficulty finding good proposals for the Spring Symposium for the last two years. Although they were able to come up with eight symposia for 2011 (initially there were only 2), the subject of moving the spring event to another venue has been considered. The timeframe may also be problematic due to fact that it coincides with spring break for many researchers. On the other hand, the fall symposium, now held in the Washington, DC area, is thriving, with

an adequate number of good proposals and attendance equal to that of the spring series.

Break: AAAI Annual Business Meeting. The installation of newly elected President-Elect Henry Kautz and councilors Maria Fox, Adele Howe, Jonathan Schaeffer, and Toby Walsh was completed. Retiring Past President Martha Pollack and councilors Sheila McIlraith, Rich Sutton, David E. Smith, and were thanked for their years of service.

Ongoing Business

Computing Research Association: Carla Brodley, AAAI Liaison to the CRA, reported on key activities of the group in the last year. The CRA prepared a letter in response to the recent NRC rankings for computer science, which was sent to NAE, NAS, and IOM, and also appeared in Computing Research News. Of particular concern was NRC's practice of only considering conference publications if they occur in a journal in their publication assessment, and using the ISI database provided by Thompson Scientific for counting journal articles, which does not include many prominent journals in computer science and miscategorizes others. The NRC has agreed to work with CRA to acquire more accurate publication data including journal and conference publications. They will also not include any citation data in the released report, will delay the report until the publication data can be collected, and will include an acknowledgement of the flaws in the data collection.

In other news, Brodley noted that 60 CIFellows (Computing Innovation) were chosen from 531 candidates to start Fall of 2009. CRA awarded its Distinguished Award to Moshe Vardi (Rice University) the Haberman Award to Anne Condon (University of British Columbia).

CRA's government affairs committee moved forward in several areas: (1) endorsement and comments on three pending pieces of legislation including two cyber security bills and the America COMPETES reauthorization; (2) weighed in with policy makers in less formal ways with meetings with OSTP, House and Senate staff, science core

curriculum issues (i.e., that CS should be part of the core high school curriculum), and issues with the forthcoming PITAC review of Networking and Information Technology Research and Development program; and Fred Schneider testified before the House Armed Services Committee on Cyber security issues.

The CRA Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research (CRA-W) continues to sponsor numerous activities to support and encourage the participation of women in computing and is partnered with the Coalition to Diversify Computing to increase the participation of underrepresented minorities. CRA-W co-located with IJCAI-09 to run its Career Mentoring Workshop (funded by NSF) – 45 women attended. In the spring of 2010, CRA-W ran the seventh grad cohort meeting in Bellevue Washington, attended by 248 women graduate students. The most recent Cohort of Advanced Professionals took place June 25-26, 2010 in Providence. The goal of CAPP is to increase the percentage of computer science and engineering women faculty members who reach the top of their career tracks. Other notable activities are CRA-W and CDC's undergraduate research programs (DREU for summer research at remote institutions and CREU to support research at a students' home institution).

AI Topics: Henry Kautz noted that the AI Topics committee was given a small grant by AAAI to redesign and reinvigorate the AI Topics site. In response, they have established an editorial board of senior AI scientists; hired a summer intern to automate AI in the News; identified and repaired several hundred broken links; revised the look and feel of pages; added some new content, removed some old, revised many pages, added keywords; enlisted Ph.D. level help with Classic Papers, added many entries; digitized and added one more Classic Book; responded to queries from students and others; and continued to investigate sources of outside funding. There was a suggestion that AI Topics apply for funding from the AI Journal Foundation, as this type of project with community-wide benefits seems to fit their criteria for funding.

AAAI Dissertation Award: Bart Selman gave an overview of what the process for the selection of an AAAI Dissertation Award might look like. He noted that AI is often underrepresented in the ACM Dissertation Awards because of the broad base of submissions in computer science. However, he felt that the ACM model was good and could be applied to the AAAI award process. Each computer science department would be eligible to submit one or two nominations, with two letters of support for each nomination, one of which should be submitted by someone outside of the student's department. Once the AAAI senior member program is established, a letter of recommendation from a senior member may be required. A small committee would select the winner, and the competition should be independent from that of ACM.

Presidential Panel Report: Eric Horvitz reported that an interim report on the Presidential Panel held in February 2009 was issued in response to a New York Times article on the meeting, which appeared in August 2010. Horvitz encouraged the Council and other members of the community to work with media to publish balanced articles on the successes of artificial intelligence, noting that proactive action could lead to positive outcomes. He also endorsed the continuation of presidential panels to encourage debate on tough issues, raise awareness of AI, and educate the public on AI by ensuring that the best information about AI is available. The Council encouraged Horvitz or another member of the Presidential Panel to write an article for AI Magazine, which will help educate the AI community and let others know that AAAI is considering these issues.

New Business

Government Liaison Proposal: Henry Kautz presented this proposal on behalf of Rob Brachman. In his written proposal, Brachman noted that the AAAI Government Liaison role should be played by a committee of volunteers from the AI community who have had success in interacting with the government in various ways, including obtaining funding and influ-

encing policy. Some members with experience as funding agents would be helpful, as would those with prior work experience in other parts of government. The goals of the committee would be to provide a single, well-known target point for key players in Washington to contact when they need knowledgeable input about AI; to support AAAI's proactive advocacy in Washington and potentially other capitals; and to serve an information clearinghouse function for the AI community so that people interested in funding opportunities and important committee and other activities in government related to AI can find what they need in a centralized place. Several additional recommendations were given about the composition of the committee, its focus, and its function in relation to that of the CRA. A full list of initial tasks was outlined for the committee related to these goals and recommendations. The Council agreed that the first step was to identify a chair for the committee, and the Executive Committee agreed to follow up with suggestions made by the Council.

International Issues: The Council briefly discussed its continuing efforts to fully represent its international members in AAAI activities. The Council agreed on the importance of continuing to internationalize all AAAI committees, and noted that the conference program committees have already succeeded on this front. Initiatives to reach current and potential international members should continue.

AAAI Sponsored Challenges: Henry Kautz briefed the Council on his idea to establish a series of AAAI sponsored challenges, which would culminate in a competition or exhibition at the annual conference, and sought Council feedback. The Semantic Robot Vision Challenge is a good example of what he envisions for these challenges. The Council was enthusiastic about this proposal, and suggested that this also might be a good candidate for AI Journal Foundation funding.

Kautz thanked the Council members for their attendance and participation, and the meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Congratulations to the 2011 AAAI Fellows!



Pictured, left to right: Dieter Fox, Robert Holte, Sheila McIlraith, Satinder Singh, Makoto Yokoo, Shlomo Zilberstein.

Each year a small number of fellows are recognized for their unusual distinction in the profession and for their sustained contributions to the field for a decade or more. An official dinner and ceremony will be held in their honor during AAAI-11 in San Francisco.

Dieter Fox, University of Washington

For significant contributions to probabilistic state estimation and its application to the fields of robotics and ubiquitous computing.

Robert C. Holte, University of Alberta

For significant contributions to the science and practice of empirical machine learning, and for leadership of the *Machine Learning Journal*.

Sheila A. McIlraith, University of Toronto

For significant contributions to knowledge representation, reasoning about action, and the formal foundations of the semantic web and diagnostic problem solving.

Satinder Singh Baveja, University of Michigan

For significant contributions to reinforcement learning, including seminal theoretical results on algorithm properties and the foundations of dynamical system representations.

Makoto Yokoo, Kyushu University

For significant contributions to the theory and algorithms for multiagent systems and in particular in pioneering research in distributed constraint reasoning and mechanism design in anonymous environments.

Shlomo Zilberstein, University of Massachusetts Amherst

For significant contributions to decision-theoretic reasoning, resource-bounded reasoning, automated planning, decentralized decision making and multiagent systems.