AAAI News

Fall News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

AAAI Returns to the City by the Bay in 2017!

The Thirty-First AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-17) and the Twenty-Ninth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-17) will be held February 4–9 at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square in San Francisco, California, USA. San Francisco is a world-class city full of delights for every visitor. From the iconic Golden Gate bridge to its renowned art galleries, science museums, and picturesque neighborhoods, the City takes pride in its unrivaled attractions and treasures. The Hilton Hotel is located near Union Square and very close to shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues, as well as public transportation. The conference location is a great starting point to explore the City's tremendous ethnic and cultural diversity and its wide variety of offerings. San Francisco is also perfectly positioned to explore the entire Bay Area, whether for recreation or business. The Napa Valley, Pacific Coast, Silicon Valley, and East Bay are all a short distance away. As an unrivaled center for AI and tech professionals, San Francisco promises to be a vibrant home for AAAI-17. For local information, please visit the San Francisco travel site at www.sftravel.com.

Please note these upcoming deadlines for AAAI-17:

Doctoral Consortium

September 21: Applications due

The Doctoral Consortium (DC) provides an opportunity for a group of Ph.D. students to discuss and explore their research interests and career objectives with a panel of established researchers in artificial intelligence. The consortium's objectives are to provide a setting for mutual feedback on participants' current research and guidance on future research directions; to develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research; to support a new generation of researchers by offering advice about academic, research, industrial, and non-traditional career paths; and, finally, to contribute to the overall conference goals through interaction with other researchers and participation in conference events.

Student Abstract and Poster Program

September 30: Abstracts due

The goal of the AAAI-17 Student Abstract and Poster program is to provide a forum in which students can present and discuss their work during its early stages, meet some of their peers who have related interests, and introduce themselves to more senior members of the field. The program is open to all students at the undergraduate, masters, and doctoral levels.

Workshop Program

October 21: Submissions due

The AAAI-17 workshop program includes approximately 20 workshops covering a wide range of topics in artificial intelligence. The AAAI-17 Workshop Call for Participation is now available at www.aaai.org/Workshops/ws17.php. Workshop submissions are due October 21, unless otherwise noted at the individual workshop website. Submission requirements vary for each workshop. Please consult the individual workshop description for complete information about where to submit your paper and a link to the workshop supplementary website, where more detailed information will be available.

Demonstrations Program

October 21: Short papers and video due

The AAAI-17 Demonstrations Program is intended to foster discussion and exchange of ideas among researchers and practitioners from academe and industry by presenting software and hardware systems and research prototypes of such systems, including their capabilities and workings. Accepted demonstrations will be allocated one time slot during one of the main conference evening poster programs, and will have a short paper included in the proceedings. Submissions from everyone, including authors of paper submissions to AAAI, IAAI, and AAAI-17 workshops, are encouraged. Work submitted to other tracks (such as the Robotics Exhibition and the Videos Competition) can also be submitted to the Demonstrations Program, according to the guidelines in the Call for Videos.

AI Video Competition

November 15: Submissions Due

The goal of the AAAI-17 Video Competition is to show the world how much fun AI is by documenting exciting artificial intelligence advances in research, education, and application. View previous entries and award winners at the

AI Videos Past Competitions page (www.aaai videos.org/past_competitions).

For More AAAI-17 Information

Website: www.aaai.org/aaai17

For complete information about AAAI-17, please visit the AAAI-17 website at or write to us at aaai17@aaai.org. The AAAI-17 Program Cochairs are Shaul Markovitch (Technion, Israel) and Satinder Singh (University of Michigan, USA).

The IAAI-17 Conference Chair and Cochair are James Crawford (Orbital Insight, USA) and G. Michael Youngblood (PARC, a Xerox Company, USA).

We hope to see you in San Francisco in February!

AAAI-17 Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Scholarship Program for 2017, which is sponsored by the *AI Journal.* The Student Scholar Program provides partial travel support for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the conference program or letters of recommendation from their faculty advisor; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by November 18, 2016. In addition, repeat scholarship applicants must have fulfilled the volunteer and reporting requirements for previous awards. In the event that scholarship applications exceed available funds, preference will be given to students who have an accepted technical paper, and then to students who are actively participating in the conference in some way. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply.

The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in San Francisco, California. In 2017, 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. The deadline for volunteer applications is November 18, 2016.

For further information about the Scholarship Program or the Volunteer Program, or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at scholarships17@aaai.org.

Join Us for AIIDE in October!

The Twelfth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE-16) will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton San Francisco Airport – Burlingame, in the San Francisco Bay Area, October 8-12, 2016. AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. Sponsored by AAAI, the conference is targeted at both the research and commercial communities, promoting AI research and practice in the context of interactive digital entertainment systems with an emphasis on commercial computer and video games.

The tentative line-up of invited speakers for AIIDE-16 includes Katja Hofmann (Microsoft Research), Jonathan Blow (Number ONone), Kevin Dill (Lockheed Martin), and the AIIDE-16/MIG-16 Joint Invited Talk will feature Simon Clavet (UbiSoft Montreal). The program will also include technical paper presentations, a poster and demo session, and the annual Starcraft AI Competition. The Playable Experiences track will continue this year with four systems with articulable innovation in the use of AI directly affecting the user's experience, including *Rogue Process, Elsinore, Conceptually Blended Levels in a Unity Engine,* and *Bad News.* Finally, the workshop program, to be held October 8 and 9, will include the following three workshops: Artificial Intelligence in Adversarial Real-Time Games (W1); Experimental AI in Games (W2); and Player Analytics (W3).

The full conference program and registration information is available at aiide.org. The late registration deadline is September 9. Onsite rates will be in effect after that date. Preregistration is strongly encouraged. The online registration form is available at www.regonline.com/aiide16, and will be open through the conference period. Onsite registration will be held in the foyer of the Embassy Ballroom on the Main Level of the hotel. For more information about registration or hotels in the area, please consult www.aiide.org, or write to aiide16@aaai.org.

HCOMP 2016 Registration Open

Please join us for the Fourth AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 2016), to be held October 30 – November 3 at the AT&T Executive Conference Center on the campus at the University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, USA. HCOMP is the premier venue for disseminating the latest research findings on crowdsourcing and human computation. While artificial intelligence (AI) and human-computer interaction (HCI) represent traditional mainstays of the conference, HCOMP believes strongly in inviting, fostering, and promoting broad, interdisciplinary research. This field is particularly unique in the diversity of disciplines it draws upon, and contributes to, ranging from human-centered qualitative studies and HCI design, to computer science and artificial intelligence, economics and the social sciences, all the way to cultural heritage, digital humanities, ethics, and policy. The HCOMP conference is aimed at promoting the exchange of advances in human computation and crowdsourcing among not only researchers, but also engineers and practitioners, to encourage dialogue across a spectrum of disciplines and communities of practice.

The theme for HCOMP 2016 is *interaction* — interaction between people and technology that is foundational to human computation; interaction between theoretical foundations, experimental work, and engineering; interaction between the computational, scientific, and social applications of crowdsourcing; and interaction be-

tween diverse disciplines and perspectives, within our community and beyond.

The program will include keynote addresses by Iyad Rahwan (MIT), Nathan Schneider (University of Colorado Boulder), and Ashish Goel (Stanford University). In addition, on the first day of the conference, HCOMP-16 will feature a Doctoral Consortium and a tutorial on Crowdsourced Data Processing: Industry and Academic Perspectives, as well as three workshops: CrowdCamp; Human Computation for Image and Video Analysis (Group-Sight); and Mathematical Foundations of Human Computation.

The main technical program has been expanded to include two new tracks on Industry and Practice and Encore Papers. Past tracks on works-in-progress and demos will also continue.

Complete registration and hotel information is available at www. humancomputation.com/2016. The late registration deadline is October 7, 2016. The deadline for hotel reservations at the AT&T Conference Center is October 3, 2016. The discounted room rate of $185 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date.

ICWSM 2017
Comes to Canada

Please join us for the Eleventh International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media, to be held in Montréal, Québec Canada, May 15–18. 2017. This interdisciplinary conference is a forum for researchers in computer science and social science to come together to share knowledge, discuss ideas, exchange information, and learn about cutting-edge research in diverse fields with the common theme of online social media. This overall theme includes research in new perspectives in social theories, as well as computational algorithms for analyzing social media. ICWSM is a singularly fitting venue for research that blends social science and computational approaches to answer important and challenging questions about human social behavior through social media while advancing computational tools for vast and unstructured data. Full conference details will be posted at www.icwsm. org/2017 as they become available.

AAAI 2016 Fall
Symposium Registration

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence's 2016 Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 17-19 at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The six symposia are (1) Accelerating Science: A Grand Challenge for AI; (2) Artificial Intelligence for Human-Robot Interaction; (3) Cognitive Assistance in Government and Public Sector Applications;(4) Cross-Disciplinary Challenges for Autonomous Systems; (5) Privacy and Language Technologies; and (6) Shared Autonomy in Research and Practice

An informal reception will be held on Thursday, November 17. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Friday, November 18. Symposia generally range from 40–75 participants each. Participation will be open to active participants as well as other interested individuals on a first-come, first-served basis. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. AAAI technical reports will be distributed to participants in electronic format and posted in the AAAI digital library

The final deadline for registration is October 21, 2016. For registration information, please contact AAAI at fss16@ aaai.org or visit AAAI's web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss16.php. A hotel room block has been reserved at the Westin. The cut-off date for reservations is October 17, 2016 at 5:00 pm ET. Please call +1-888-627-7076 (reference AAAI) for reservations, or reserve a room online via the URL liste earlier.

AAAI 2017 Spring
Symposium Series

AAAI is pleased to present the 2017 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday – Wednesday, March 27–29, 2017, at Stanford University. The eight symposia are as follows:

AI for the Social Good

Eric Horvitz (Microsoft Research), Barbara Grosz (Harvard University), Amy Greenwald (Brown University), David Parkes (Harvard University), Carla Gomes (Cornell University), Stephen Smith (Carnegie Mellon University), Gregory Hager (Johns Hopkins University), Ann W. Drobnis (Computing Research Association), Nicole Sintov (Ohio State University), Milind Tambe (University of Southern California), Amulya Yadav (University of Southern California), Fei Fang (Harvard Universit), Bryan Wilder (University of Southern California)

Computational Construction Grammar and Natural Language Understanding

Luc Steels (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain), Jerome Feldman (International Computer Science Institute)

Computational Context: Why It's Important, What It Means, and Can It Be Computed?

Ranjeev Mittu (Naval Research Laboratory); W.F. Lawless (Paine College); Don Sofge (Naval Research Institute); David Aha (Naval Research Institute)

Designing the User Experience of Machine Learning Systems

Mike Kuniavsky (PARC), Elizabeth Churchill (Google), Molly Wright Steenson (Carnegie Mellon University)

Interactive Multisensory Object Perception for Embodied Agents

Vivian Chu (Georgia Institute of Technology), Jivko Sinapov (University of Texas at Austin), Jeannette Bohg (MPI for Intelligent Systems), Sonia Chernova (Georgia Institute of Technology), Andrea L. Thomaz (University of Texas at Austin)

Learning from Observation of Humans

Santiago Ontañón (Drexel University), Avelino J. González (University of Central Florida), José L. Montaña (University of Cantabria, Spain)

Science of Intelligence: Computational Principles of Natural and Artificial Intelligence

Gemma Roig (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Xavier Boix (National University of Singapore)

Well-Being AI: From Machine Learning to Subjective Oriented Computing

Takashi Kido (Rikengenesis, Japan), Keiki Takadama, (The University of Electro-Communications, Japan)

For additional information, and links to the supplementary websites for each symposium, please see www.aaai. org/Symposia/Spring/ sss16.php. Submissions for the symposia are due on October 28, 2016. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 29, 2016. Material to be included in the technical reports of the symposium must be received by January 25, 2017. Registration information will be available by December 15, 2016. Please contact AAAI at sss17@aaai.org with any questions.

AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2017 Fellows Selection Committee is currently accepting nominations for AAAI Fellow. The AAAI Fellows program is designed to recognize people who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence over at least a ten-year period. All regular members in good standing are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. At least two references must accompany nominations. The nominator or one of the references must be a AAAI Fellow who is a current member of AAAI. For further information about the Fellows Program or to receive nomination and reference forms, please contact AAAI at 650-328-3123; by fax at 650-321-4457; or by email at fellows17@aaai.org. Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai. org/Awards/fellows.php. The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2016.

The AAAI Feigenbaum Prize

The Feigenbaum Prize Selection Committee is currently accepting nominations for the 2017 Feigenbaum Prize. The AAAI Feigenbaum Prize is awarded biennially to recognize and encourage outstanding Artificial Intelligence research advances that are made by using experimental methods of computer science. The "laboratories" for

the experimental work are real-world domains, and the power of the research results are demonstrated in those domains. The Feigenbaum Prize may be given for a sustained record of high-impact seminal contributions to experimental AI research; or it may be given to reward singular remarkable innovation and achievement in experimental AI research. The prize is $10,000 and is provided by the Feigenbaum Nii Foundation and administered by AAAI. All nominations must be accompanied by at least one letter of support. For further information about the AAAI Feigenbaum Prize and to access the electronic nomination form, please visit www.aaai.org/ Awards/feigenbaum.php The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2016.

2017 AAAI Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its two special awards in 2017, and is currently seeking nominations for the 2017 AAAI Classic Paper Award, and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award. The 2017 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Sixteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1999 in Orlando, Florida. The 2017 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-17 in San Francisco, California, USA. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php. The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2016. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

2017 AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator Award

The AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator award was created in 2016 to honor a person (or group of people) who has made major contributions to AI education that provide long-lasting benefits

to the AI community. Examples include innovating teaching methods, providing service to the AI education community, generating pedagogical resources, designing curricula, and educating students outside of higher education venues (or the general public) about AI. The award includes a $1,000 honorarium, complimentary one-year AAAI membership (new or renewal), and a complimentary conference registration to the 2017 EAAI/ AAAI conferences, where the award will be conferred.

Complete nomination information is available at www.aaai.org/Awards/ eaai-call.php. The deadline for nominations is October 17, 2016. For additional inquiries, please contact avid Poole (eaaiaward@aaai.org).

AAAI Senior Member Grade of Membership

AAAI is now taking applications from regular members for the AAAI Senior Member grade of membership. This status is designed to recognize members who have achieved significant accomplishments within the field of Artificial Intelligence. To be eligible for nomination for Senior Member, candidates must be consecutive members of AAAI for at least five years and have been active in the professional arena for at least ten years. Applications should include information that details the candidate's scholarship, leadership, and professional service. At least two references, one of which must be written by a AAAI Fellow or a current AAAI Senior Member must accompany the senior member application. References should be submitted by colleagues who know the candidate, and are familiar with their work and accomplishments.

Each year a maximum of 25 members will be elected to the Senior status. All applications and references must conform to the requirements listed on the form, and must be received by September 30, 2016.

For complete details and an application form, please see www.aaai. org/Awards/senior.php, or contact Carol Hamilton at seniormember16@aaai. org.

AAAI Elects New President-Elect and Councilors

Incoming AAAI President Subbarao Kambhampati (left) is presented with his new gavel by outgoing AAAI president Thomas G. Dietterich (right) at the July 2017 AAAI Executive Council Meeting in New York City.

AAAI is pleased to announce and congratulate the continuing slate of officers and new councilors for the AAAI Executive Council.

> *President:* Subbarao Kambhampati
>   (Arizona State University, USA)
> *Past President:* Thomas G. Dietterich
>   (Oregon State University, USA)
> *President-Elect:* Yolanda Gil
>   (USC Information Sciences Institute, USA)
> *Secretary-Treasurer:* Ted Senator

Incoming Councilors (through 2019)

> Blai Bonet (Universidad Simón Bolívar, Venezuela)
> Mausam (Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India)
> Michela Milano (Università di Bologna, Italy)
> Qiang Yang (Hong Kong University of Science and
>   Technology, Hong Kong)

Eight existing Executive Council members, elected in 2015 and 2016, will continue their terms of service during the coming year. For a complete list, please refer to www.aaai.org/Organization/officers.php.

AAAI also thanks the four retiring Councilors, and retiring Past President, Manuela Veloso (Carnegie Mellon University, USA), for their dedicated service and generous donations of time. The four retiring officers are Sven Koenig (University of Southern California, USA), Sylvie Thiebaux (NICTA, Australia), Francesca Rossi (University of Padua, Italy), and Brian Williams (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

First Call for Nominations for Executive Councilors

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.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the following information to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 2275 East Bayshore Road, Suite 160, Palo Alto, CA 94303; by fax to 650/321-4457; or by email to hamilton@aaai.org:

> Name
> Affiliation
> City, State or Province, Country
> Email address
> URL
> Year of membership in AAAI
> Approximate number of AAAI publications
> At least two sentences describing the candidate and why he would be a good candidate

Please include any additional information or recommendations that would be helpful to the Nominating Committee. 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 December 15, 2016.