

AAAI NEWS

New Conference Format for NCAI

Once the AAAI conferences were small meetings of less than one thousand attendees. Today the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence is considered to be the single most important annual conference in this country. The number of attendees and exhibits has expanded proportionally. As with any change and growth, the NCAI has encountered its share of problems. Those problems have ranged from overcrowding in the technical paper sessions and tutorials to inadequate meeting and exhibition facilities.

As one attempt to address these problems, the AAAI developed a new format that maintains the traditional one-week format, and also creates a small conference atmosphere through the temporal and physical separation of the different sessions. The physical and temporal separation will hopefully increase the opportunity for more collegial interactions—considered the most important reason for attending most technical conferences. This model has been used successfully by other scientific societies, such as the American Physical Union and the IEEE.

Besides meeting the need to increase the number of collegial interactions, the Technical Program has increased the number of its topical areas relating to technology and engineering. As a means of managing the larger number of technical paper sessions, the Technical Program will be temporally separated into two tracks—science technical sessions being held during the first two days of the week, August 11 and 12 and the engineering sessions occurring on Thursday and Friday, August 14 and 15. We hope to have the science sessions at the University of Pennsylvania (a four block walk to the Philadelphia Civic Center) and the engineering sessions at

the Philadelphia Civic Center.

We also plan to schedule the panels that appeal to a more general audience on Tuesday and Thursday, August 12 and 14 and the science-related panels on Wednesday with the AAAI Presidential Address and other invited talks at the Philadelphia Civic Center. In the exhibition halls of the Philadelphia Civic Center, the exhibit program is now scheduled for a three day period, Wednesday thru Friday, August 13-15. The tutorials will be scheduled for Thursday and Friday, August 14-15 at the Franklin Plaza Hotel.

As another incentive to increase collegial interaction, small workshops will be encouraged. During the autumn, procedures will be de-

veloped to solicit and review requests to conduct workshops during the National Conference. Individuals requesting information about those workshops are asked to send their names and addresses to:

AAAI-86 Workshops
AAAI
445 Burgess Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3496

As with any change, we encourage your support and comments.

AAAI-86 Chairs

We are pleased to announce the designation of Stan Rosenschein from SRI International and Tom Kehler from IntelliCorp as the co-program chairs for AAAI-86.

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