AAAI News

Fall News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

Join Us for AAAI-16 and IAAI-16!

AAAI Celebrates Its 30th in the Land of the Sun — February 12–17 2016!

The Thirtieth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-16) and the Twenty-Eighth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-16) will be held February 12-17 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Phoenix is America's sixth largest city, yet still has real cowboys, rugged mountains, and the kind of cactus most people see only in cartoons. Phoenix is the gateway to the Grand Canyon, and its history is a testament to the spirit of puebloans, ranchers, miners, and visionaries. Projected against this rich backdrop is a panorama of urban sophistication, with a host of museums, including the Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park and the Heard Museum, sports stadiums, restaurants, and shopping. Nearby Tempe is the site of Arizona State University, home of a leading AI research community. Please join us in in 2016 in America's sunniest metropolis! For local information, please visit the Phoenix Visitors site at www.visit-phoenix.com.

Upcoming Deadlines

AAAI-16 Doctoral Consortium — *Applications Due September 22*

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 has the following objectives: (1) to provide a setting for mutual feedback on participants' current research and guidance on future research directions; (2) to develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research; (3) to support a new generation of researchers by offering advice about academic, research, industrial, and nontraditional career paths; and (4) to contribute to the overall conference goals through interaction with other researchers and participation in conference events.

AAAI-16 Student Abstract and Poster Program — *Abstracts Due September 29*

The goal of this 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.

AI Video Competition — *Submissions Due October 15*

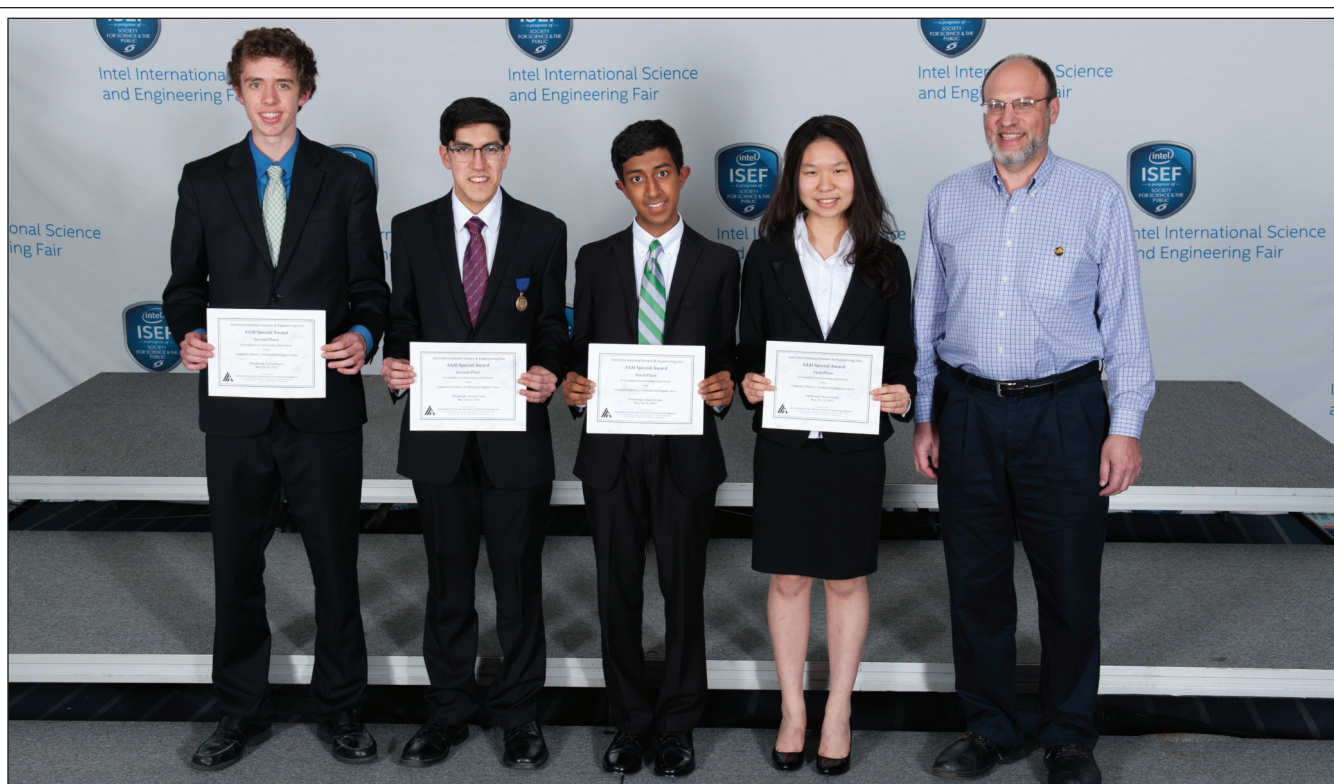The goal of the competition is to show the world how much fun AI is by documenting exciting artificial intelligence advances in research, education, and application. View previous entries and award winners at the AI Videos Past Competitions page (www.aaaivideos.org/past_competitions/).

AAAI-16 Demonstrations Program — *Short Papers Due October 20*

The AAAI-16 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 a time slot during one of the main conference evening poster programs, and will have a short paper included in the proceedings. Participants in the AAAI-16 Robotics Exhibition and the AAAI-16 Video Competition are encouraged to contribute to the Demonstration Program with their systems as well, if appropriate.

AAAI-16 Workshop Program — *Submissions Due October 23*

The workshop program includes 16 workshops covering a wide range of topics in artificial intelligence. The AAAI-16 Workshop Call for Participation is now available at www.aaai.org/Workshops/ws16.php. Workshop submissions are due October 23, unless otherwise noted at the individual workshop website. Submission requirements vary for each workshop. Please

AAAI at the Intel International Science and Engineering Awards

AAAI is pleased to announce its participation at the INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) as part of the 2015 Special Awards Program. The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the world's largest international pre-college science competition, provides an annual forum for approximately 1,700 high school students from more than 75 countries, regions, and territories to showcase their independent research as they compete for approximately $4 million in prizes. The Intel ISEF is the premier global science competition for students in grades 9–12.

AAAI presented three awards, as well as five honorable mentions at the fair, which took place May 10 – 15, 2015 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Winners of the AAAI awards also received a one-year membership in AAAI, as did their schools, including a subscription to *AI Magazine.* The 2015 AAAI winners were:

First Award of $1,500: Low-Cost, Fun and Colorful Glove for 3D Hand Posture Estimation System (Chin Yeoh, Chengdu International School (CDIS), Chengdu, China)

Second Award of $1,000: Automated Illustration of Text to Improve Semantic Comprehension (Konrad Neal Urban and Suvir Prakash Mirchandani, Fox Chapel Area High School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Third Award of $500: Biologically-Inspired Flying Sensor Platform for Autonomous Emergency Response (Mihir Garimella, Fox Chapel Area High School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA)

Honorable Mention: Artificial Evolution (Martin Rolf Henning Lindblom, Lugnetgymnasiet, Falun, Sweden)

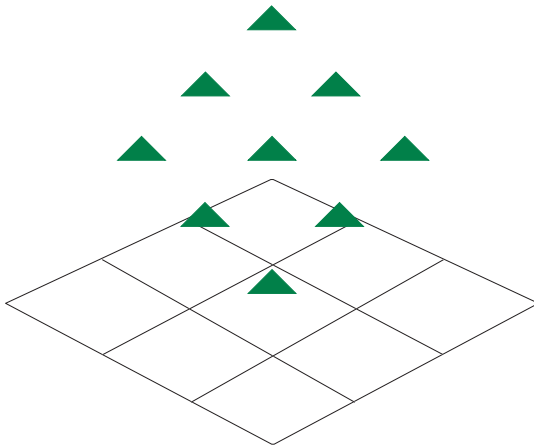*Honorable Mention:* Little Insect Project (Vanessa Wang, American High School, Fremont, California, USA)

Honorable Mention: Functional Neural Networks Evaluated by Weierstrass Polynomials (Phillip Kuznetsov, William Hebgen Guss, and Patrick Bo Chen, West High School, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA)

Honorable Mention: Self-Driving Car Intersection (Neal Vinay Agarwal, Chantilly High School, Chantilly, Virginia, USA)

Honorable Mention: A Novel Algorithm for #SAT (Elliot Gorokhovsky, Fairview High School, Boulder, Colorado, USA)

AAAI thanks the judges representing AAAI at the fair for their generous donation of time to make these awards possible: Reid Simmons (Head Judge), Stephen Smith, Joydeep Biswas, and Laura Barbulescu, all of Carnegie Mellon University.

For information about AAAI's participation in the 2016 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

2015 AAAI
Fall Symposium Series

November 12-14
Registration Is Open Now!

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence's 2015 Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 12-14 at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The titles of the six symposia are as follows:

AI for Human-Robot Interaction

Cognitive Assistance in Government and Public Sector Applications

Deceptive and Counter-Deceptive Machines

Embedded Machine Learning

Self-Confidence in Autonomous Systems

Sequential Decision Making for Intelligent Agents

An informal reception will be held on Thursday, November 12. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Friday, November 13. Symposia will be limited to 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 electronically to participants, and will be added to the AAAI Digital Library.

The final deadline for registration is October 23, 2015. For registration information, please contact AAAI at fss15@aaai.org or visit AAAI's web site at http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss15.php. A hotel room block has been reserved at the Westin. The cut-off date for reservations is October 16, 2015 at 5:00pm ET. Please call +1-888-627-7076 (reference AAAI) for reservations, or reserve a room online via aforementioned URL.

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.

For complete information about AAAI-16, please visit the website at www.aaai.org/aaai16 or write to us at aaai16@aaai.org.

The AAAI-16 Program Cochairs are Dale Schuurmans (University of Alberta, Canada) and Michael Wellman (University of Michigan, USA). The IAAI-16 Conference Chair and Cochair are Peter Z. Yeh (Nuance Communications, USA) and James Crawford (Orbital Insight, USA). We hope to see you in Phoenix in February!

2016 Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Scholarship Program for 2016, 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 30, 2015. 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 Phoenix, Arizona. In 2016, 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 requir-

The Eleventh AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE-15)

Join Us in Santa Cruz, California on November 14-18

The Eleventh AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE-15) will be held at the University of California, Santa Cruz Santa Cruz, California, USA, November 14-18, 2015. AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between interactive 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-15 includes Katherine Isbister, Mitu Khandaker-Kokoris (The Tiniest Shark), Adam Noonchester (Insomniac Games), and Jochen Renz (Australian National University). The program will also include technical paper presentations, a poster/demo session, the annual Starcraft AI Competition, and newly organized social activities for students, such as a game night at a local restaurant. The Playable Experiences track will continue this year with five systems with articulable innovation in the use of AI directly affecting the user's experience, including *Base Camp, iGiselle, Prismata, Sarah & Sally,* and *Sure Footing.* Finally, the workshop program, to be held October 3 and 4, will include five workshops:

W1: Artificial Intelligence in Adversarial Real-Time Games (organized by Michael Buro and Santiago Ontanon) (skatgame.net/mburo/aiide15ws.

W2: Experimental AI in Games (organized by Alex Zook, Mike Cook, and Antonios Liapis) (exag.org).

W3: Intelligent Narrative Technologies and Social Believability in Games (a joint workshop organized by Camille Barot, Albert Li, Jonathan Rowe, and Emmett Tomai; and Harko Verhagen, Mirjam Palosaari Eladhari, Josh McCoy), and Magnus Johansson) (public.intellimedia.ncsu. edu/workshops/INT8 and sites.google.com/site/socialbelievabilityingames).

W4: Player Modeling (organized by Noor Shaker, Georgios Yannakakis, and Pieter Spronck (noor-shaker.com/pmws).

The full conference program and registration information is available at aiide.org. The late registration deadline is October 16. Onsite rates will be in effect after that date. Preregistration is strongly encouraged. The online registration form is available at www.regonline.com/aiide15, and will be open through the conference period. Onsite registration will be held in the foyer of the Baskin Engineering Building (www.soe.ucsc.edu) at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). For more information about registration or hotels in the area, please consult www.aiide.org, or write to aiide15@aaai.org.

HCOMP 2015

November 8–11, 2015 ■ San Diego, California USA ■ www.humancomputation.com/2015

Join Us in San Diego, California for HCOMP 2015!

Register Now! November 8-11

Please join us for the Third AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 2015), to be held November 8-11 at the Kona Kai Resort and Spa in San Diego, California, USA. The program will include a keynote address by David Rand, assistant professor of psychology, economics, and management at Yale University, and the director of Yale University's Human Cooperation Laboratory. A full program of presentations on new research, works-in-progress and demos, as well as the Crowsourcing Breakthroughs for Language Technology Applications workshop (organized by Daniela Braga, Spencer Rothwell, Steele Carter, and Ahmad Elshenawy) is scheduled.

The theme for HCOMP 2015 is *Intersections:* intersections between people and technology, intersections between different stakeholders, intersections of the physical and virtual, and intersections between diverse perspectives in the HCOMP community and beyond.

HCOMP is cross-disciplinary, aimed at promoting the scientific exchange of advances in human computation and crowdsourcing among researchers, engineers, and practitioners across a spectrum of disciplines. The conference was created to serve as a key focal point and scholarly venue for the review and presentation of the highest quality work on principles, studies, and applications of human computation and crowdsourcing. The meeting seeks and embraces work on human computation and crowdsourcing in multiple fields, including human-computer interaction, cognitive psychology, economics, information retrieval, economics, databases, systems, optimization, and multiple subdisciplines of artificial intelligence, such as vision, speech, robotics, machine learning, and planning.

Complete registration and hotel information is available at www.humancomputation.com/2015. The late registration deadline is October 9, 2015. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Kona Kai is October 5, 2015. The discounted room rate of $149 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date.

ing 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 30, 2015.

For further information about the Scholarship Program or the Volunteer Program, or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at scholarships16@aaai.org.

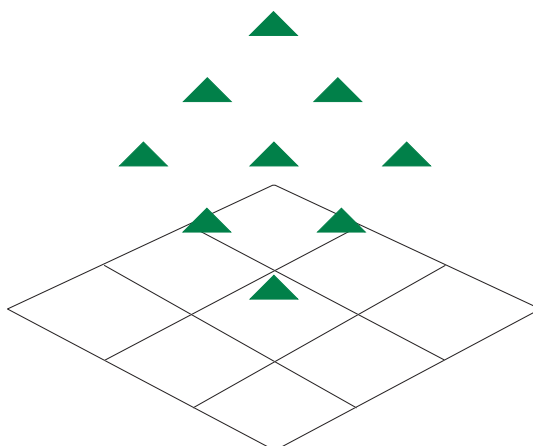## Save the Date for ICWSM-16!

May 17-20, Cologne, Germany

Please join us for the Tenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, to be held at GESIS and the Maternushaus in Cologne, Germany, May 17-20, 2016. 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.

2016 AAAI Award Nominations Due September 30

Nominations for AAAI Fellows and 2016 AAAI Special Awards are due September 30th!

AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2016 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

Please Participate in the 2016 Spring Symposium Series!

AAAI presents the 2016 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday - Wednesday, March 21-23, 2016, at Stanford University. The titles of the seven symposia are:

AI and the Mitigation of Human Error: Anomalies, Team Metrics and Thermodynamics (organized by Ranjeev Mittu, Gavin Taylor, Don Sofge, and W. F. Lawless)

Challenges and Opportunities in Multiagent Learning for the Real World (organized by Christopher Amato, Miao Liu, Frans Oliehoek, Karl Tuyls, Jonathan P. How, and Peter Stone)

Enabling Computing Research in Socially Intelligent Human-Robot Interaction: A Community-Driven Modular Research Platform (organized by Maja Mataric , Mark Yim, and Ross Mead)

Ethical and Moral Considerations in Non-Human Agents (organized by Bipin Indurkhya and Georgi Stojanov)

Intelligent Systems for Supporting Distributed Human Teamwork (organized by Ofra Amir, Krzysztof Gajos, Ya'akov (Kobi) Gal, Barbara Grosz, Jonathan Grudin), Robert Kraut, Gary Olson, and Peter Stone)

Observational Studies through Social Media and Other Human-Generated Content (organized by Elad Yom-Tov, Munmun De Choudhury, and Emre Kiciman)

Well-Being Computation: AI Meets Health and Happiness Science (organized by Takashi Kido and Keiki Takadama)

For additional information, and links to the supplementary websites for each symposium, please see www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss15.php.

Submissions for the symposia are due on October 9, 2015. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 6, 2015. Material to be included in the technical reports of the symposium must be received by January 26, 2016.

Registration information will be available by December 15, 2015. Please contact AAAI at sss16@aaai.org with any questions.

Call for Nominations for AAAI President and Executive Councilors

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. All elected officers and 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 two candidates for President- Elect and 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, 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, 2015.

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 fellows16@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, 2015.

2016 Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its two special awards in 2016, and is currently seeking nominations for the 2016 AAAI Classic Paper Award, and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award.

The 2016 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Fifteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1998 in Madison, Wisconsin.

The 2016 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-16 in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows. php. The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2015. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@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/or 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, 2015. 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 Councilors

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

President: Thomas G. Dietterich (Oregon State University, USA)

Past President: Manuela Veloso (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)

President-Elect: Subbarao Kambhampati (Arizona State University, USA)

Secretary-Treasurer: Ted Senator (Leidos, USA)

Incoming Councilors (through 2018)

Charles Isbell (Georgia Institute of Technology)

Diane Litman (University of Pittsburgh)

Jennifer Neville (Purdue University)

Kiri L. Wagstaff (Jet Propulsion Laboratory)

In addition to the individuals listed above, eight councilors elected in 2014 and 2013 will continue their terms of service during the coming year. For a complete list, please refer to http://www.aaai.org/Organization/officers.php.

AAAI also thanks the four retiring Councilors, for their dedicated service and generous donation of time. The four retiring officers are Carla Gomes (Cornell University, USA), Julia Hirschberg (Columbia University, USA), Eduard Hovy (Carnegie Mellon University, USA), and Henry Lieberman (MIT Media Lab, USA).

AAAI Welcomes New *AI Magazine* Associate Editor!

AAAI and David Leake, editor in chief of *AI Magazine,* are pleased to announce the appointment of AAAI life member Ashok K. Goel as the new associate editor of *AI Magazine.* Goel is a professor of computer science in the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also director of the School's the School's Design and Intelligence Laboratory and Ph.D. program in human-centered computing. He is a codirector of Georgia Tech's Center for Biologically Inspired Design and also affiliated with Georgia Tech's Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machines.

We welcome Ashok to *AI Magazine* as he takes an active role in the acquisition of articles and special issues.

AAAI Member News

Congratulations to the Winners of the DARPA Robotics Challenge Finals!

AAAI members were well represented among the top three winning teams at the DARPA Robotics Challenge Finals in Pomona, California, June 5-6, 2015. Taking first place and the $2 million in prize money that goes with it was Team KAIST of Daejeon, Republic of Korea, and its robot DRC-Hubo. Coming in second and taking home $1 million was Team IHMC Robotics of Pensacola, Florida, and its robot Running Man. The third place finisher, earning the $500,000 prize, was Tartan Rescue of Pittsburgh, and its robot CHIMP. Launched in response to a humanitarian need that became clear during the nuclear disaster at Fukushima, Japan, in 2011, the DARPA Robotics Challenge consisted of three increasingly demanding competitions over two years. The goal was to accelerate progress in robotics and hasten the day when robots have sufficient dexterity and robustness to enter areas too dangerous for humans and mitigate the impacts of natural or man-made disasters. The DRC Finals competition challenged participating robotics teams and their robots to complete a difficult course of eight tasks relevant to disaster response, among them driving alone, walking through rubble, tripping circuit breakers, turning valves and climbing stairs. A dozen teams from the United States and another eleven from Japan, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea and Hong Kong competed in the outdoor competition. For more information, please see www.theroboticschallenge.org/.