



## *Spring News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence*

### **AAAI Announces New Senior Member!**

AAAI congratulates Wheeler Ruml (University of New Hampshire, USA) on his election to AAAI Senior Member status. This honor was announced at the recent AAAI-16 Conference in Phoenix. Senior Member status is designed to recognize AAAI 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.

### **Congratulations to the 2016 AAAI Award Winners!**

Tom Dietterich, AAAI President, Manuela Veloso, AAAI Past President and Awards Committee Chair, and Rao Kambhampati, AAAI President-Elect, presented the AAAI Awards in February at AAAI-16 in Phoenix.

#### **AAAI Classic Paper Award**

The 2016 AAAI Classic Paper Award was given to the authors of the two papers deemed most influential from the Fifteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1998 in Madison, Wisconsin, USA. The 2016 recipients of the AAAI Classic Paper Award were:

The Interactive Museum Tour-Guide Robot (Wolfram Burgard, Armin B. Cremers, Dieter Fox, Dirk Hähnel, Gerhard Lakemeyer, Dirk Schulz, Walter Steiner, and Sebastian Thrun)

Boosting Combinatorial Search through Randomization (Carla P. Gomes, Bart Selman, and Henry Kautz)

Burgard and colleagues were honored for significant contributions to probabilistic robot navigation and the integration with high-level planning methods, while Gomes, Selman, and Kautz were recognized for their significant contributions to the area of automated reasoning and constraint solving through the introduction of randomization and restarts into complete solvers. Wolfram Burgard and Carla Gomes presented invited talks during the conference in recognition of this honor.

For more information about nominations for AAAI 2017 Awards, please contact Carol Hamilton at [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org).

#### **AAAI-16 Outstanding Paper Awards**

This year, AAAI's Conference on Artificial Intelligence honored the following two papers, which exemplify high standards in technical contribution and exposition by regular and student authors.

##### **AAAI-16 Outstanding Paper Award**

Bidirectional Search That Is Guaranteed to Meet in the Middle (Robert C.

Holte, Ariel Felner, Guni Sharon, Nathan R. Sturtevant)

##### **AAAI-16 Outstanding Student Paper Award**

Toward a Taxonomy and Computational Models of Abnormalities in Images (Babak Saleh, Ahmed Elgammal, Jacob Feldman, Ali Farhadi)

#### **IAAI-16 Innovative Application Awards**

Each year the AAAI Conference on Innovative Applications selects the recipients of the IAAI Innovative Application Award. These deployed application case study papers must describe deployed applications with measurable benefits that include some aspect of AI technology. The application needs to have been in production use by its final end-users for sufficiently long so that the experience in use can be meaningfully collected and reported. The 2016 winners were as follows:

Deploying PAWS: Field Optimization of the Protection Assistant for Wildlife Security (Fei Fang, Thanh H. Nguyen, Rob Pickles, Wai Y. Lam, Gopalasamy R. Clements, Bo An, Amandeep Singh, Milind Tambe, Andrew Lemieux)

Ontology Re-Engineering: A Case Study from the Automotive Industry (Nestor Rychtyckyj, Baskaran Sankaranarayanan, P Sreenivasa Kumar, Deepak Khemani, Venkatesh Raman)

Deploying nEmesis: Preventing Foodborne Illness by Data Mining Social Media (Adam Sadilek, Henry Kautz,



## Please Join Us for ICWSM-16 in Cologne, Germany!

The Tenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media will be held May 17–20 at Maternushaus and GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Cologne, Germany. 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.

ICWSM-16 will include a lively program of technical talks and posters, invited presentations, and keynote talks by Lise Getoor (University of California, Santa Cruz) and Amr Goldberg (Stanford Graduate School of Business).

### Workshops and Tutorials

The ICWSM Workshop program will continue in 2016, and the Tutorial Program will return. Both will be held on the first day of the conference, May 17. For complete details about the workshop program, please see [www.icwsml.org/2016/program/workshop](http://www.icwsml.org/2016/program/workshop).

### Registration Is Now Open!

Registration information is available at the ICWSM-16 website ([www.icwsml.org/2016/attending/registration](http://www.icwsml.org/2016/attending/registration)). The early registration deadline is March 25, and the late registration deadline is April 15.

For full details about the conference program, please visit the ICWSM-16 website ([icwsml.org](http://icwsml.org)) or write to [icwsml16@aaai.org](mailto:icwsml16@aaai.org).

Lauren DiPrete, Brian Labus, Eric Portman, Jack Teittel, Vincent Silenzio)

## Special Computing Community Consortium (CCC) Blue Sky Awards

AAAI-16, in cooperation with the CRA Computing Community Consortium (CCC), honored three papers in the Senior Member track that presented ideas and visions that can stimulate the research community to pursue new directions, such as new problems, new application domains, or new methodologies. The recipients of the 2016 Blue Sky Idea travel awards, sponsored by the CCC, were as follows:

Indefinite Scalability for Living Computation (David H. Ackley)

Embedding Ethical Principles in Collective Decision Support Systems (Joshua Greene, Francesca Rossi, John Tasioulas, Kristen Brent Venable, Brian Williams)

Five Dimensions of Reasoning in the Wild (Don Perlis)

## 2016 AI Video Competition Winners

The tenth annual AI video competition was held during AAAI-16 and several winning videos were honored during the awards presentation. Videos were nominated for awards in six categories, and winners received a “Shakey” award during a special award ceremony at the conference. Our thanks go to Sabine Hauert and Charles Isbell for all their work on this event. The winners of the three awards were as follows:

### Best Video

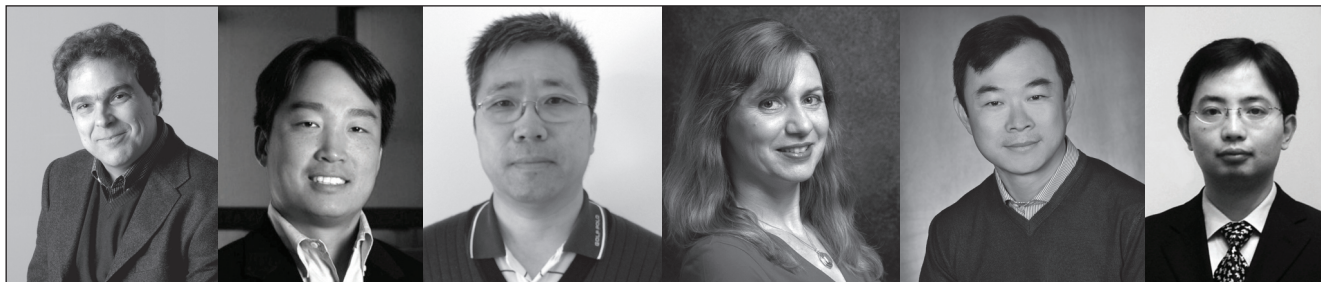
*Machine Learning Techniques for Reorchestrating the European Anthem* (François Pachet, Pierre Roy, Mathieu Ramona, Marco Marchini, Gaetan Hadjeres, Emmanuel Deruty, Benoit Carré, Fiammetta Ghedini)

### Best Robot Video

*A Sea of Robots* (Anders Lyhne Christensen, Miguel Duarte, Vasco Costa, Tiago Rodrigues, Jorge Gomes, Fernando Silva, Sancho Oliveira)

### Best Student Video

*Deep Neural Networks Are Easily Fooled* (Anh Nguyen, Jason Yosinski, Jeff Clune)



## Congratulations to the 2016 AAAI Fellows!

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 were held in their honor during AAAI-16 in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Giuseppe De Giacomo** (University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy)

For significant contributions to the field of knowledge representation and reasoning, and applications to data integration, ontologies, planning, and process synthesis and verification.

**Daniel D. Lee** (University of Pennsylvania, USA)

For significant contributions to machine learning and robotics, including algorithms for perception, planning, and motor control

**Bing Liu** (University of Illinois at Chicago, USA)

For significant contributions to data mining and development of widely used sentiment analysis, opinion spam detection, and Web mining algorithms.

**Maja J. Mataric** (University of Southern California, USA)

For significant contributions to the advancement of multi-robot coordination, learning in human-robot systems, and socially assistive robotics.

**Eric Poe Xing** (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)

For significant contributions to statistical machine learning, its theoretical analysis, new algorithms for learning probabilistic models, and applications of these to important problems in biology, social network analysis, natural language processing and beyond; and to the development of new architecture, system platform, and theory for distributed machine learning programs on large scale applications.

**Zhi-Hua Zhou** (Nanjing University, China)

For significant contributions to ensemble methods and learning from multi-labeled and partially-labeled data.

## The 2016 AAAI Distinguished Service Award

The 2016 AAAI Distinguished Service Award recognizes one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. The AAAI Awards Committee is pleased to announce that this year's recipient is Maria Gini (University of Minnesota). Professor Gini is being recognized for her outstanding contributions to the field of artificial intelligence through sustained service leading AI societies, journals, and conferences; mentoring colleagues; and working to increase participation of women in AI and computing.



Maria Gini is a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota. She studies decision making for autonomous agents in a variety of applications and contexts, ranging from distributed methods for allocation of tasks to robots, to methods for robots to explore an unknown environment, teamwork for search and rescue, and navigation in dense crowds. She is a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence. She is coeditor in chief of *Robotics and Autonomous Systems*, and is on the editorial board of numerous journals, including *Artificial Intelligence*, and *Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems*.

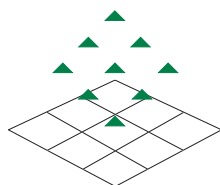
## AAAI/EAAI 2016 Outstanding Educator Award



*Peter Norvig and Stuart Russell accept the AAAI / EAAI Outstanding Educator Award.*

The Inaugural AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator was established in 2016 to recognize a person (or group of people) who has (have) made major contributions to AI education that provide long-lasting benefits to the AI community. Examples might 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. AAAI is pleased to announce the first corecipients of this award, Peter Norvig (Google) and Stuart Russell (University of California, Berkeley), who are being honored for their definitive text, "Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach," that systemized the field of artificial intelligence and inspired a new generation of scientists and engineers throughout the world, as well as for

their individual contributions to education in artificial intelligence. This award is jointly sponsored by AAAI and the Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence.



## 2016 Fall Symposium Series November 17–19

Mark Your Calendars! The 2016 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 17–19, at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. Proposals are due April 8, and accepted symposia will be announced in late April. Submissions will be due July 29, 2016.

For more information, please see the 2016 Fall Symposium Series website ([www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss16.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss16.php)).

Han Yu, Chunyan Miao, Cyril Leung, Daniel Wei Quan Ng, Kian Khang Ong, Bo Huang and Yaming Zhang)

AAAI gratefully acknowledges the Bristol Robotics Laboratory for help with the manufacturing of the awards. Congratulations to all the winners!

## AAAI-16 Student Abstract Awards

Two awards were presented to participants in the AAAI-16 Student Abstract Program, including the Best Student 3-Minute Presentation and the Best Student Poster. Fifteen finalists in the Best Student 3-Minute Presentation category presented one-minute oral spotlight presentations during the second day of the technical conference, followed that evening by their poster presentations. Votes for both awards were cast by senior program committee members and students. The winners were as follows:

### Best Student 3-Minute Presentation

Towards Structural Tractability in Hedonic Games (Dominik Peters)

### Honorable Mention: Student 3-Minute Presentation

Epitomic Image Super-Resolution (Yingzhen Yang, Zhangyang Wang, Zhaowen Wang, Shiyu Chang, Ding Liu, Honghui Shi, and Thomas S. Huang)

### Most Entertaining Video

*Finding Linda — A Search and Rescue Mission* by SWARMIX (Mahdi Asadpour, Gianni A. Di Caro, Simon Egli, Eduardo Feo-Flushing, Danka Csilla, Dario Floreano, Luca M. Gambardella, Yannick Gasser, Linda Gerencsér, Anna Gergely, Domenico Giustiniano, Gregoire Heitz, Karin A. Hummel, Barbara Kerekes, Ádám Miklósi, Attila David Molnar, Bernhard Plattner,

Maja Varga, Gábor Vásárhelyi, Jean-Christophe Zufferey)

### Best Application of AI

*Save the Wildlife, Save the Planet: Protection Assistant for Wildlife Security* (Fei Fang, Debarun Kar, Dana Thomas, Nicole Sintov, Milind Tambe)

### People's Choice

*AI for Liveable Cities* (Zhengxiang Pan,





*AAAI President Tom Dietterich delivers his Presidential Address, Steps Toward Robust Artificial Intelligence, on Sunday, February 14 at AAAI-16.*

#### Best Student Poster

Efficient Collaborative Crowdsourcing  
(Zhengxiang Pan, Han Yu, Chunyan Miao, and Cyril Leung)

### Join Us in New Orleans for AAAI-17

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 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, during the mid-January to mid-February time-frame. Final dates will be available by March 31, 2016. The technical conference will continue its 3.5-day scheduled, either preceded or followed by the workshop and tutorial programs. AAAI-17 will arrive in New Orleans just prior to Mardi Gras and festivities will already be underway. Enjoy legendary

jazz music, the French Quarter filled with lively clubs and restaurants, world-class museums, and signature architecture. New Orleans' multicultural and diverse communities will make your choices and and experience

in the Big Easy unique. The 2017 Call for Papers will be available soon at [www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai17.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai17.php).

Please join us in 2017 in NOLA for a memorable AAAI!

### AAAI President-Elect and Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mailboxes for an announcement of the 2016 AAAI Election. The link to the electronic version of the annual AAAI Ballot will be mailed to all regular individual AAAI members in the spring. The membership will vote for a new President-Elect (two-year term, followed by two years as President, and two additional years as Past President), as well as four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. The online voting system is expected to close on June 10. Please note that the ballot will be available via the online system only. If you have not provided AAAI with an up-to-date email address, please do so immediately by writing to [membership16@aaai.org](mailto:membership16@aaai.org).

## Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award

The Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award was established in 2003 to honor Dr. Robert S. Engelmore's extraordinary service to AAAI, *AI Magazine*, and the AI applications community, and his contributions to applied AI. The annual keynote lecture is presented at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference. Topics encompass Engelmore's wide interests in AI, and each lecture is linked to a subsequent article published upon approval by *AI Magazine*. The lecturer and, therefore, the author for the magazine article, are chosen jointly by the IAAI Program Committee and the Editor of *AI Magazine*.



AAAI congratulates the 2016 recipient of this award, Reid G. Smith, i2k Connect, who was honored for pioneering research contributions and high-impact applications in knowledge management and for extensive contributions to AAAI, including educating and inspiring the broader community about AI through AITopics. Smith presented his award lecture, "A Quarter Century of AI Applications: What We Knew Then versus What We Know Now," at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference in Phoenix.

Reid G. Smith is cofounder and chief executive officer of i2k Connect, an AI technology company that transforms unstructured documents into structured data enriched with subject matter expert knowledge. Formerly, he was vice president of research and knowledge management at Schlumberger, enterprise content management director at Marathon Oil, and senior vice president at Medstory, a vertical search company purchased by Microsoft. He holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford University and is a Fellow of AAAI. He

has served as AAAI Councilor, AAAI-88 program cochair, IAAI-91 program chair and program committee member for IAAI from its inception in 1989. He is coeditor of AITopics.

## Join Us in Austin for HCOMP-16

The Fourth AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing will be held October 30 – November 3, 2016 at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on the University of Texas at Austin campus. HCOMP-16 will be co-located with EMNLP 2016, the 2016 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing. 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 law and policy. We promote the exchange of scientific advances in human computation and crowdsourcing not only

among researchers, but also engineers and practitioners, to encourage dialogue across disciplines and communities of practice.

Submissions are due May 17, 2016. For more information, please visit [humancomputation.com](http://humancomputation.com), or write to [hcomp16@aaai.org](mailto:hcomp16@aaai.org).

## AAAI Member News

### Nick Jennings Receives New Year Honor

Nick Jennings, professor of computer science at the University of Southampton, has been made Companion of the Order of the Bath in the Queen's New Year Honours List for his services to computer science and national security science. Jennings, who is head of Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) at the University, has been recognized for his pioneering contributions to the fields of artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and agent-based computing. He is the UK's only Regius Professor in Computer Science, a prestigious title awarded to the University by HM The Queen to mark her Diamond Jubilee. Jennings just completed a six-year term of office as

the Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government in the area of National Security. Jennings is also a successful entrepreneur and is chief scientific officer for Aerogility, a 20-person start-up that develops advanced software solutions for the aerospace and defense sectors.

### Bill Clancey Named NAI Fellow

William "Bill" Clancey, a senior research scientist with the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), was named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). The Tampa-based Academy named a total of 168 Fellows this week, bringing the total number of Fellows to 582. This is the fourth year that Fellows have been named. Clancey is most well-known for developing a work practice modeling and simulation system called Brahms, a tool for comprehensive design of work systems, relating people and automation. Using the Brahms modeling system, scientists study the flow of information and communications in real-world work settings, and the effect of automated systems. One important practical application is the coordination among air traffic controllers,



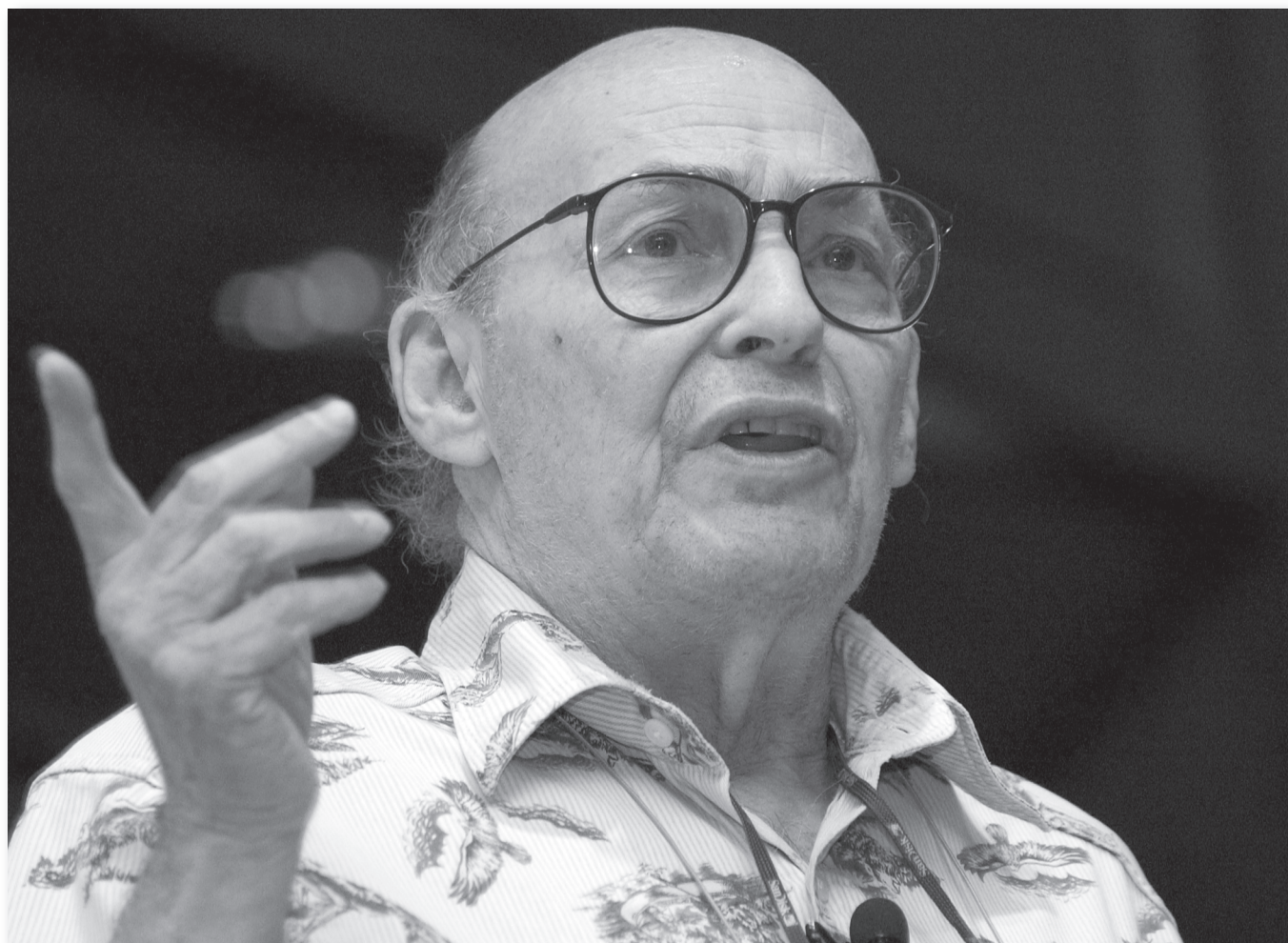


*Nick Bostrom of Oxford University addresses AAAI-16 in his talk "What We Should Think about Regarding the Future of Machine Intelligence."*



*As part of a series of events addressing ethical issues and AI, AAAI-16 held a debate on AI's Impact on Labor Markets, with participants (left to right) Erik Brynjolfsson (MIT), Moshe Vardi (Rice University), Nick Bostrom (Oxford University), and Oren Etzioni (Allen Institute for AI). The panel was moderated by Toby Walsh (Data61) (far left).*





### Marvin Minsky, 1927 – 2016

AAAI is deeply saddened to note the death of Marvin Minsky on 25 January 2016, at the age of 88. One of the founders of the discipline of artificial intelligence, Minsky was a professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which he joined in 1958. With John McCarthy, Minsky cofounded the MIT Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. Minsky was also a founding member of the MIT Media Lab, founder of Logo Computer Systems, Thinking Machines Corporation, as well as AAAI's third President. Minsky's research spanned an enormous range of fields, including mathematics, computer science, the theory of computation, neural networks, artificial intelligence, robotics, commonsense reasoning, natural language processing and psychology. An accomplished musician, Minsky had boundless energy and creativity. He was not only a scientific pioneer and leader, but also a mentor and teacher to many.

Minsky's impact on many leaders in our community was documented in the Winter 2007 issue of *AI Magazine* article "In Honor of Marvin Minsky's Contributions on his 80th Birthday" written by Danny Hillis, John McCarthy, Tom M. Mitchell, Erik T. Mueller, Doug Riecken, Aaron Sloman, and Patrick Henry Winston. His prolific writing career also included many articles within our pages as well.

Minsky's passing is a tragic landmark for the many AI scientists he influenced personally, for the many more that he inspired intellectually, as well as for the history of the discipline. *AI Magazine* will celebrate his many contributions in a future issue.



pilots and automated systems during flights. The NAI Fellows will be inducted on April 15, 2016, as part of the Fifth Annual Conference of the National Academy of Inventors at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in Alexandria, Virginia.

### Ken Ford Named AAAS Fellow

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has elected Ken Ford, director and chief executive officer of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), as a Fellow. Ford is one of 347 scientists who have been named Fellows this year. The electing Council elects people “whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science of its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished.” Ford was selected “for founding and directing the IHMC, for his scientific contributions to artificial intelligence and human-centered computing, and for service to many federal agencies.” IHMC, which Ford founded in 1990, is known for its groundbreaking research in the field of artificial intelligence. Ford has served on the National Science Board, chaired the NASA Advisory Council and served on the U.S. Air Force Science Advisory Board and the Defense Science Board. Ford received an official certificate and a gold and blue rosette pin on Saturday, February 13 at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the 2016 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

AAAI congratulates all three of these AAAI Fellows for their honors!

## AAAI Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council met via teleconference on September 25, 2016.

*Attending:* Tom Dietterich, Sonia Chernova, Vincent Conitzer, Boi Faltings, Ashok Goel, Carla Gomes, Eduard Hovy, Julia Hirschberg, Charles Isbell, Rao Kambhampati, Sven Koenig, David Leake, Henry Lieberman, Diane Litman, Jen Neville, Francesca Rossi, Ted Senator, Steve Smith, Manuela Veloso, Kiri Wagstaff, Shlomo Zilberstein, Sonia Chernova, Carol Hamilton

*Not Attending:* Sylvie Thiebaux, Toby Walsh, Brian Williams

Tom Dietterich convened the meeting at 6:05am PDT, and welcomed the newly-elected councilors. The new councilors gave brief statements about their interests and goals while serving on the Executive Council. The retiring councilors were also given an opportunity to offer their advice about future priorities for AAAI. All agreed that outreach to other research communities, international outreach, and encouraging diversity should be paramount. They urged the Council to concentrate on the direction of the field and AAAI, and not get bogged down in the mechanics. Dietterich thanked the retiring councilors for their contributions to the Council and to AAAI, and encouraged them to stay involved.

### Standing Committee Reports

*Awards/Fellows/Nominating:* Manuela Veloso reviewed the current nomination process for Fellows, Senior Members, Distinguished Service, and Classic Paper. She asked the Council to encourage their colleagues to nominate people for all of these honors. She noted that it is fine to ask a Fellow to nominate you, and in the case of Senior Members, self-nomination with accompanying references is the normal process. She noted that there is a new award this year, the Outstanding Educator Award, which will be cosponsored by AAAI and EAAI. Sylvie Thiebaux volunteered to serve on the selection committee, representing the Council. Veloso reported that the Nominating Committee completed its selections for the recent ballot earlier in the summer, and welcomed the new councilors, thanking them for their thoughtful ballot statements.

*Conference:* Shlomo Zilberstein reported that Michael Wellman and Dale Schuurmans, AAAI-16 program co-chairs, are doing a great job with AAAI-16 conference. Another record number of submissions was received on September 15, which indicates that the timing of the conference is continuing to work well for the community. While the conference is very prestigious, many do not realize that AAAI is more than the conference, so raising the visibility of the Association and what it does is important. Sandip Sen is spearheading sponsor recruitment,

and has been working with Carol Hamilton on the annual *AI Journal* proposal for support of student activities, as well as other corporate sponsorships. Zilberstein noted that he is in the process of recruiting chairs for 2017. The committee discussed an overview of venues circulated earlier, and decided that New Orleans was their top choice, with Albuquerque next in line. Hamilton will enter into negotiations with New Orleans. Finally, Zilberstein noted that the Council should establish a written policy regarding its decision to make conference attendance for young families more accessible. The Council discussed the importance of continuing the initiatives started in 2015, such as outreach, ethics panels, and demos of new competitions. Zilberstein will follow up with the 2016 program chairs to be sure these issues are being addressed.

*Conference Outreach:* Henry Lieberman noted that the conference outreach program continues to offer sister conferences publicity opportunities through various AAAI outlets. However, more conferences need to be encouraged to take advantage of this. The committee recently added the 10th IEEE International Conference on Semantic Computing to the list.

*Ethics:* Francesca Rossi reported that the Ethics Committee has been formed, and noted the recent open letter on Autonomous Weapons signed by many members of the AI community. The Committee has not yet formed a proposal for a code of ethics, but has started gathering samples from other organizations.

*Finance:* Ted Senator reported that the Association investment portfolio is now over \$9,000,000.00, and that programs have continued to operate on budget for 2015. Due to the larger surplus from AAAI-15, it is likely that a smaller operating deficit will be realized for 2015. Senator noted that there will be another meeting of the Council in November to approve the 2016 budget. (*Ed note:* This meeting was rescheduled to February 2016 due to extenuating circumstances.)

*International:* Tom Dietterich reported on behalf of Toby Walsh that AAAI recently sponsored a “Lunch with a AAAI Fellow” event at IJCAI, and this



*AAAI President Tom Dietterich (far left) thanks members of the AAAI-16 Conference Committee for all their efforts in making the conference a great success, including AAAI-16 Program Cochairs, Michael Wellman (second from left) and Dale Schuurmans (fourth from left).*

program proved to be very successful. He would like to see more of this type of outreach in the future. Sven Koenig noted that AAAI could have a stronger presence via town hall meetings, a booth, or panels and talks at IJCAI or other events. This is a strong possibility in 2016 because of the North American location of IJCAI. This would raise the visibility of AAAI and encourage the international community to join. All agreed that AAAI presidents should pursue a presence at IJCAI on a permanent basis.

**Policy/Government Relations:** The newly-formed Policy / Government Relations committee will be conducting a survey, and will convene its first meeting after that survey is complete.

**Membership:** Ed Hovy reported that reduced membership fees for weak currency countries have been instituted, and reminded the Council to review

this program every year. The program will be up for renewal in three years. At that time, the Council should decide if membership fees need to be adjusted. However, an annual review will help avoid any long-term problems. He also reminded the Council that the other component of this program — developing strong local representatives in international locales — is equally important, and should be finalized in 2016. AAAI is continuing to offer free memberships to attendees of cooperating conferences who are new to AAAI. Several conferences have taken advantage of this opportunity. Hovy noted that the most important challenge facing AAAI is the retention of members through the development of programs that serve the needs of its members. Tom Dietterich thanked Hovy for his service as chair of the Membership Committee, and noted that he is in the

process of revamping the committee assignments in light of the recent Council transition.

**Publications:** David Leake reviewed all of the publishing activities of the Association during the past nine months, including *AI Magazine*, several proceedings, and workshop and symposium technical reports. He noted that Ashok Goel has agreed to join *AI Magazine* as associate editor, and welcomed Goel to the group. Goel thanked Leake and Tom Dietterich for this opportunity, and said he looked forward to contributing to the magazine.

### Funding Requests

**CRA-W:** Tom Dietterich reported that AAAI had received a request from CRA-W for \$15,000.00 in support of their efforts. He proposed that AAAI contribute \$5,000.00, primarily in support of outreach and diversity for women in





*The Arizona State University's Robot Learning Class Demonstrated their Autonomous Robot Arm at AAAI-16.*

research. During the following discussion, it was noted that CRA-W has had difficulty of late securing funding from traditional sources, and would like to attract 100–200 more women at their conference, which supports women in their first three years of graduate study. The Council suggested that CRA-W be encouraged to collocate their conference with AAAI, but also would like to see an increased effort to establish a AAAI subgroup of women. Julia Hirschberg moved to support this request at the \$5,000.00 level, and Steve Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed. Charles Isbell will follow up with CRA-W to offer complimentary one-year memberships to award recipients.

**AI Topics:** Tom Dietterich noted that Bruce Buchanan and Reid Smith would like to continue AI Topics, but fund it via membership revenue, rather than an NSF grant, as it has been for the past several years. While this may be possible, it was decided that a clearer proposal needs to be developed to establish what the exact dollar amount would be per

member. The Council also noted that the AI Alert mailing list should be opt-out rather than opt-in. An article in the *AI Magazine* would help raise the visibility of the site, which has far better curation than Wikipedia.

### Focus Group Report

Tom Dietterich reported that he ran a focus group during AAAI to explore new directions for AAAI. The group helped develop a questionnaire reflecting their discussions, and this was subsequently circulated to the AAAI membership. The top-ranked item by the membership was the pursuit of education initiatives, including summer schools for college freshmen, development of course materials, and continuing education opportunities for AAAI members. As a result, Dietterich is seeking to establish a Committee on Education, and asking the members to study and implement one of the ideas detailed in the survey. He is seeking volunteers from the Council. Kiri Wagstaff volunteered to help with this committee, and moved to approve the

formation of this committee as an ad hoc committee of the Executive Council. Francesca Rossi seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. In addition, the Council moved to appoint Wagstaff as chair of the committee, which also passed with no opposing votes.

### Media Committee

Tom Dietterich would like to create an ad hoc media committee, which would advise on and create social media opportunities for members, including a blog, and other features. Advice on appropriate members of the committee is needed. This committee would be a subcommittee of the Publications Committee, and might also oversee the AI Topics website. Dietterich will work on finding an appropriate chair for the committee. Ted Senator moved to create the ad hoc committee, which was seconded by Steve Smith. The motion passed.

Tom Dietterich thanked everyone for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 AM PDT.