



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

*Important Update! AAAI-17 Has  
Moved in Time and Place!*

### **Join Us for AAAI-17 and IAAI-17 in San Francisco**

We are delighted to announce that AAAI-17 will be held February 4–9 at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square! AAAI-17 program cochairs Shaul Markovitch and Satinder Singh will continue the traditions of past years with a strong technical program, including three special tracks, as well as rich outreach programs for students, women, and sister conferences. Special technical tracks will include cognitive systems, computational sustainability, and integrated systems. For complete details on the technical program, and the call for papers, please see [www.aaai.org/aaai17.php](http://www.aaai.org/aaai17.php).

Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

*September 9, 2016:* AAAI-17 Electronic abstracts due

*September 14, 2016:* AAAI-17 Electronic papers due

*October 27–29, 2016:* Author feedback about initial reviews

*November 11, 2016:* Notification of acceptance or rejection

*November 28, 2016:* Camera-ready copy due

San Francisco is full of delights for every visitor. From the iconic Golden Gate bridge to world-class art galleries, science museums, and picturesque

neighborhoods, the City takes pride in its unrivaled attractions and treasures. The Hilton San Francisco Union Square is located near Union Square and very close to shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues. AAAI-17 is only 2 blocks from cable cars, and is also near MUNI and BART public transportation. The conference location is a great starting point to explore the City's outstanding ethnic and cultural diversity, its wide variety of shops, world-class restaurants, and theater. It's not too early to begin making your tentative plans now to join us in San Francisco!

For more information about AAAI-17 as it develops, please visit [www.aaai.org/aaai17](http://www.aaai.org/aaai17), or contact AAAI at [aaai17@aaai.org](mailto:aaai17@aaai.org). We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco next February!

### **We Are Still Headed to New Orleans!**

The AAAI conference will still be going to New Orleans, although it has been postponed until 2018. The dates for AAAI-18 will be February 4–10, 2018. The conference will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel. Please plan to join us during Mardi Gras season for the Thirty-Second AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. Enjoy legendary jazz music, the French Quarter filled with lively clubs and restaurants, world-class museums, and signature architecture. New Orleans's multicultural and diverse

communities will make your choices and and experience in the Big Easy unique. The AAAI Conference Committee has announced the selection of Sheila McIlraith to serve as one of the program chairs for 2018, and her cochair will be announced soon. Stay tuned for updates during the coming months!

### **Join Us in Austin, Texas for HCOMP!**

The Fourth AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP-2016) will be held October 30 – November 3 2016 in Austin, Texas. 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 digital humanities, policy, and ethics. The conference promotes the exchange of advances in human computation and crowdsourcing not only among researchers, but also engineers and practitioners, to



## The Twelfth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE-16)

Please join us for AIIDE-16, to be held October 8–12, 2016 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton San Francisco Airport – Waterfront in Burlingame, California. AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. 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. AIIDE invites researchers and developers to share insights and cutting-edge results from a wide range of AI-related problems and encourages the presentation of a) results from core AI research areas applicable to interactive digital entertainment and b) AI approaches developed and fielded in commercial systems. The program will include invited speakers, research and practitioner presentations, playable experiences, project demonstrations, interactive poster sessions, product exhibits, and a doctoral consortium.

AIIDE is pleased to announce its colocation with the ACM SIGGRAPH Motion in Games (MIG) 2016 Conference. MIG will be held at the same hotel, and participants at both conferences will have an opportunity to network during selected shared sessions. The goal of the Motion in Games conference is to bring together researchers from a variety of fields, including graphics and animation, game technology, robotics, simulation, computer vision, and also physics, psychology, and urban studies, to present their most recent results, to initiate collaborations, and to contribute to the establishment of the research area.

The third edition of the Playable Experiences track will include presentations by indie developers, industry developers, and researchers who are developing innovative AI-based games or other interactive media (“playable experiences”) that involve some articulable innovation in the use of AI directly affecting the user’s experience. Demonstrations of playable experiences will be presented in conjunction with the evening poster/demo session at the conference. The AIIDE-16 workshop program will be held on the first two days of the conference, October 8–9.

AIIDE-16 registration information and other program details will be available on the AIIDE-16 website at [www.aiide.org](http://www.aiide.org) later this summer. Please send inquiries to [aiide16@aaai.org](mailto:aiide16@aaai.org), or to the conference chair, Nathan Sturtevant (University of Denver).

encourage dialogue across disciplines and communities of practice.

The conference will be held at the AT&T Executive Conference Center, on campus at the University of Texas at Austin. HCOMP will include presentations of new research, works-in-progress, demo and poster sessions, and invited talks. The two-day main conference will be bookended on October 30 by a tutorial on industry and academic perspectives of crowd-sourced data processing and a doctoral consortium, and on November 3 by two workshops, Human Computation for Image and Video Analysis (Group-Sight) and Mathematical Foundations of Human Computation, as well as CrowdCamp.

Complete registration and hotel information will be available in August at [www.humancomputation.com/2016](http://www.humancomputation.com/2016). The early registration deadline will be September 2. The deadline for hotel reservations at the AT&T Executive Conference Center is October 3, 2016. The discounted room rate of \$185.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date. Please note special instructions regarding the night of October 29 when booking your room.

## AAAI Gifts Program

It is the generosity and loyalty of our members that enable us to continue to provide the best possible service to the AI community and promote and further the science of artificial intelligence by sustaining the many and varied programs that AAAI provides. AAAI invites all members and other interested parties to consider a gift to help support the open access initiative, as well as the dozens of other programs that AAAI currently sponsors. For more information about the Gift Program, please see [www.aaai.org/Forms/donate.php](http://www.aaai.org/Forms/donate.php) or write to us at [donate16@aaai.org](mailto:donate16@aaai.org).

## AAAI Honors High School Students at Intel ISEF

AAAI is pleased to announce the winners of the recent AAAI Special Awards at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held May 8-13 in



*AAAI Special Award Winners at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.*

Left to right: Ryan Gross (third prize), Steven Elliott (second prize), and Simone Braunstein (first prize).

Phoenix, Arizona. The winners of the AAAI honors were:

**First Prize:** Simone Braunstein for A Novel Haptic Actuator for Robotic Surgery: Utilizing Soft Robotic Pneumatic Networks, a Closed Loop Control System, and an Electro-Pneumatic Control Board to Accurately Restore an Operator's Sense of Touch

**Second Prize:** Steven Elliott for Use the Force, Lyapunov! A Novel Quadcopter Motor Controller Using Force Sensor Feedback

**Third Prize:** Ryan Gross for Give Me a Hand

**Honorable Mention:** Joshua Gruenstein and Michael Truell for Fido: A Universal Robot Control System Using Reinforcement Learning with Limited Feedback

**Honorable Mention:** Vidur Prasad for Traffic Camera Dangerous Driver Detection (TCD3): Contextually Aware Heuristic Feature & OFA Density-Based Computer Vision with Movement Machine Learning Analysis of

Live Streaming Traffic Camera Footage to Identify Anomalous and Dangerous Driving

**Honorable Mention:** Myrijam Stoetzer and Paul Foltin for Eye-controlled Wheelchair: A Low-cost Open Source Hard and Software System Allowing Independent Mobility for People with Severe Disabilities

**Honorable Mention:** Eshika Saxena for A Portable Optoelectronic Molecular Identification and Spectral Analysis System for Assessing the Quality, Safety, and Composition of Food and Pharmaceuticals Using Machine Learning

**Honorable Mention:** David Gardner for Multi-Goal Motion Planning for Steerable Surgical Needles

AAAI thanks Jingrui He, Yu Zhang, and Satya Gautam Vadlamudi, all of Arizona State University, who served as AAAI's judges at the event, for their generous donation of time and effort.

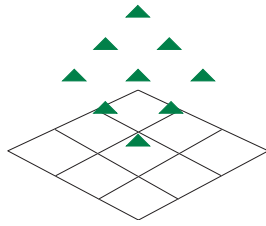
The Intel International Science and

Engineering Fair, a program of Society for Science & the Public, is the world's largest precollege science competition, and includes more than 1,700 high school students from more than 75 countries, regions and territories.

Society for Science & the Public, a nonprofit organization dedicated to public engagement in scientific research and education, owns and has administered the International Science and Engineering Fair since its inception in 1950. In 1958, the competition became international for the first time when Japan, Canada, and Germany joined.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2016 is funded jointly by Intel and the Intel Foundation with additional awards and support from dozens of corporate, academic, governmental and science-focused organizations. To learn more about Society for Science & the Public, visit [www.societyforscience.org](http://www.societyforscience.org).





## 2017 Spring Symposium Series March 27–29 2017

The 2017 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 27–29, 2017 at Stanford University. The call for proposals is available at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss17.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss17.php). Proposals are due June 15. The Call for Participation will be available in August. Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 21, 2016. For more information, please contact the symposium cochairs, Gita Sukthankar and Christopher Geib, at [sss17chairs@aaai.org](mailto:sss17chairs@aaai.org) or AAAI at [sss17@aaai.org](mailto:sss17@aaai.org). A preliminary list of symposia will be available at the SSS-17 website in late July.



## ICWSM-17 to be Held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

AAAI is pleased to announce that, in cooperation with the McGill University School of Computer Science, ICWSM-17 will be held in late May/early June in Montreal. The general chair for ICWSM-17 is Derek Ruths, and the program chairs are Winter Mason, Sandra Gonzalez-Bailon, and Alice Marwick. Please see [www.icwsml.org/2017](http://www.icwsml.org/2017) for the latest developments.

## 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](mailto:fellows17@aaai.org). Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI web site at [www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php). The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2016.

## 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, 2016. For complete details and an application form, please see [www.aaai.org/Awards/senior.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/senior.php), or contact Carol Hamilton at [seniormember17@aaai.org](mailto:seniormember17@aaai.org).

## AAAI Feigenbaum Prize

This prestigious award will be presented at AAAI-17 in San Francisco. 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

## AAAI Member News

### Eric Horvitz to Receive the ACM-AAAI Allen Newell Award

Eric Horvitz has been selected to receive the ACM-AAAI Allen Newell Award for contributions to artificial intelligence and human-computer interaction spanning the computing and decision sciences through developing principles and models of sensing, reflection, and rational action. His contributions have advanced the understanding of how computing systems can reflect about their own reasoning and about the goals and cognition of people. He showed how these methods can enable people and machines to work closely together as coordinated teams to solve problems, taking advantage of the complementarities of human and machine intelligence. He has also played a leadership role in the development and fielding of practical applications. Horvitz is a technical fellow at Microsoft Research and a past president of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). He is a fellow of ACM, AAAI, and the National Academy of Engineering (NAE).

The ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award is presented to an individual selected for career contributions that have breadth within computer science, or that bridge computer science and other disciplines. This award is accompanied by a prize of \$10,000, provided by ACM and the Association for the Advance-

ment of Artificial Intelligence, and by individual contributions. Horvitz will be formally honored at the ACM Awards Banquet on June 11 in San Francisco.

### Toby Walsh Honored by Australian Academy of Science

Toby Walsh was recently elected as a new Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, which honored six women and 15 men for their outstanding contributions to a range of scientific areas including agriculture, advanced communications and cancer research. Walsh is being honored for his important scientific contributions in three closely related areas: artificial intelligence, constraint programming and computational social choice. These contributions have strongly influenced both the theory and practice of how optimisation problems are solved in industry. He has been a pioneer in theoretical artificial intelligence, building on ideas from fields including statistical physics, economics and game theory to study many complex and challenging optimisation problems such as scheduling and vehicle routing. Fellows were admitted to the Academy in a formal ceremony on May 23.

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. Complete information is available at [www.aaai.org/Awards/feigenbaum.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/feigenbaum.php). Nominations are due September 30, 2016.

### 2017 Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its two special awards in 2016, and is currently seeking nomina-

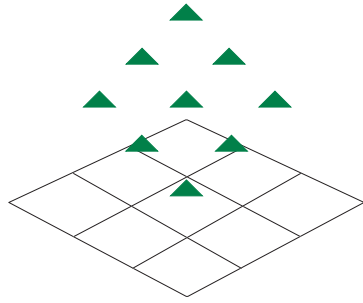
tions for the 2017 AAAI Classic Paper Award, and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award. The 2017 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Sixteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1999 in Portland, Oregon. The 2017 AAAI Distinguished 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](http://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](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org).

### AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator Award

The AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator award will be presented for the second year during AAAI-17 in San Francisco.

This award recognizes 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 stu-



## 2016 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The 2016 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 17–19, at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The titles of the symposia are available at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss16.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss16.php). Please note that submissions are due July 22, 2016.

Symposia will be limited to between forty and seventy-five participants each. Participation will be open to active participants as well as other interested individuals on a first-come, first-served basis.

Complete registration and hotel information will be available in August at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss16.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss16.php). Invited participants must register by September 30, and the final registration deadline is October 14. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Westin is 5:00 PM EDT, October 17, 2016. The discounted room rate of \$199.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date. Contact information for the Westin will be included in the registration materials.

major track record of research excellence in artificial intelligence. Recipients of the award will have made significant contributions to the research agenda in their area and will have a first-rate profile of influential research results. The award is named for John McCarthy (1927-2011), who is widely recognized as one of the founders of the field of artificial intelligence. The winner of the 2016 John McCarthy Award is Moshe Tennenholtz, Professor at the William Davidson Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management Technion - Israel Institute of Technology. Professor Tennenholtz is recognized for his research and leadership in multiagent systems and the interaction between AI and game theory.

## Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award

The IJCAI Distinguished Service Award was established in 1979 by the IJCAI Trustees to honor senior scientists in AI for contributions and service to the field during their careers. At IJCAI-16, the Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award will be given to Erik Sandewall, Professor of Computer Science (retired) at the Department of Computer and Information Science at Linköping University. Professor Sandewall is recognized for his substantial contributions, as well as his extensive service to the field of Artificial Intelligence throughout his career. He is one of the founders of IJCAI and he served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Artificial Intelligence Journal for many years and made significant contributions to the success of the journal and to the wider dissemination of AI into the scientific community.

dents outside of higher education venues (or the general public) about AI.

The award consists of a certificate, a \$1,000 honorarium, complimentary one-year AAAI membership (new or renewal), and free conference registration to the upcoming EAAI conference and colocated AAAI conference. For complete information, please see [www.aaai.org/Awards/eaai-award.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/eaai-award.php) or write to [eaaiaward@aaai.org](mailto:eaaiaward@aaai.org). The submission deadline is October 14, 2016.

## IJCAI-16 Award for Research Excellence

The Research Excellence award is given to a scientist who has carried out a pro-

gram of research of consistently high quality throughout an entire career yielding several substantial results. The winner of the 2016 Award for Research Excellence is Michael I. Jordan, Pehong Chen Distinguished Professor at the Department of EECS, University of California, Berkeley. Professor Jordan is recognized for his groundbreaking and impactful research in both the theory and application of statistical machine learning.

## IJCAI-16 John McCarthy Award

The John McCarthy research award is intended to recognize established mid-career researchers that have built up a

## Computers and Thought Award

The Computers and Thought Award is presented at IJCAI conferences to outstanding young scientists in artificial intelligence. The winner of the 2016 IJCAI Computers and Thought Award is Percy Liang, Assistant Professor at the Artificial Intelligence





*AARON Was Responsible for Creating  
the Image on the Cover of the Fall 2001 AI Magazine.*

Lab, Stanford University. Professor Liang is recognized for his contributions to both the approach of semantic parsing for natural language understanding and better methods for learning latent-variable models, sometimes with weak supervision, in machine learning.

### In Memoriam

AAAI is sad to report the passing of Harold Cohen, artist and pioneer in the field of computer-generated art, who died on April 27, 2016 at the age of 87. Cohen was the author of

AARON, perhaps the longest-lived and certainly the most creative artificial intelligence program in daily use. Cohen viewed AARON as his collaborator. According to his son, Paul, at times during their decades-long relationship AARON was quite autonomous, responsible for the composition, coloring and other aspects of a work; more recently, AARON served Cohen by making drawings that Cohen would develop into paintings. Cohen's death is the end of a lengthy partnership between an artist and an artificial intelligence.

Cohen studied painting at the Slade School of Fine Arts in London, and lat-

er taught at the Slade as well as Camberwell, Nottingham and other arts schools. After representing Great Britain at major international festivals during the 60's, he left London in 1968 for a one-year visiting faculty appointment in the Art Department at the University of California, San Diego. Cohen became Department Chair, then Director of the Center for Research in Computing and the Arts at UCSD, and eventually retired emeritus in 1994.

"Harold Cohen is one of those rare individuals in the Arts who performs at the highest levels both in the art world and the scientific world," said Professor Edward Feigenbaum of Stanford University's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, where Cohen was exposed to the ideas and techniques of Artificial Intelligence. "All discussions of creativity by computer invariably cite Cohen's work," said Feigenbaum. AARON's images and Cohen's essays and videos can be viewed at [www.aaronshome.com](http://www.aaronshome.com).

### Visit the New AAAI Member Site and Download the App!

If you haven't already logged into the AAAI member website, please take a moment to update your profile now! You can now renew your membership in AAAI and update your contact information directly via this site ([aaii.memberclicks.net](http://aaii.memberclicks.net)). In addition, you will be automatically connected with other members of the largest worldwide AI community via the AAAI online directory and other social media features. Direct links are available for new *AI Magazine* features, including the online version. Finally, you will receive announcements about all AAAI upcoming events, publications, and other exciting initiatives. Be sure to spread the word to your colleagues about this unique opportunity to tap into the premier AI society!

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