

# AAAI News



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

### Join Us for AAAI-19/ IAAI-19/EAAI-19 in Honolulu!

The Thirty-Third AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-19), the Thirty-First Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-19), and the Ninth Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI-19) will be held January 27 – February 1 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. The conference venue is located on the island of Oahu directly on Waikiki. Oahu offers a wealth of things to see and do. Explore the rich history of the Islands at one of the many museums or historical sites, take a hike in a lush tropical forest, or admire the unparalleled views from the conference site.

Hilton Hawaiian Village offers a host of conveniences right on property, but is also close to a full range of shops and restaurants, stretching to Diamond Head at the other end of Waikiki.

For complete information about options in Honolulu, please see the Hawaiian Islands visitors page at [www.gohawaii.com](http://www.gohawaii.com).

### Make Your AAAI-19 Hotel Reservation Now!

AAAI has reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel at reduced conference rates. The cut-off date for conference rate reservations is Tuesday, December 25, 2018 at 5:00 pm Honolulu time. Please see [aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-19/hotel-and-travel/](http://aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-19/hotel-and-travel/) for complete information..

### Registration Is Open!

AAAI-19 registration information is now available at [aaai.org/aaai19](http://aaai.org/aaai19), and online registration can be completed at [aaaiconf.cvent.com/aaai19](http://aaaiconf.cvent.com/aaai19). The deadline for late registration rates is January 2, 2019. Complete information on tutorial and workshops, as well as other special programs, is available via these sites.

### AAAI-19 Invited Speaker Program

In addition to 1,150 accepted technical papers, the AAAI-19 technical program will include an outstanding line-up of invited speakers. A preliminary list of invited presentations includes Dimitris Bertsimas (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), speaking on Interpretable AI; Cynthia Breazeal (Massachusetts Institute of Technology); Marta C. González (University of California, Berkeley); Ian Goodfellow (Google AI), speaking on Adversarial Machine Learning; Qiang Yang (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) on GDPR, Data Shortage and AI; and Yu Zheng (JD Group), on Urban Computing: Building Intelligent Cities Using Big Data and AI. For updated information, please see [aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-19/invited-speakers/](http://aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-19/invited-speakers/).

### Student Activities

As part of its outreach to students, AAAI-19 will continue several special programs specifically for students, including the Doctoral Consortium, the Student Abstract Program, Lunch with a Fellow, and the Volunteer Program, in addition to the following:

### Student Reception

AAAI will welcome all students to AAAI-19 by hosting an evening student reception on Sunday, January 27. Although the reception is especially beneficial to new students at the conference, all are welcome! Please join us and make all the newcomers welcome!

### Breakfast with Champions: A Women's Mentoring Event

AAAI will hold its fifth women's mentoring event for students and junior women professionals to meet with senior women in artificial intelligence. Breakfast with Champions will be held Wednesday morning, January 30.

### AAAI/ACM SIGAI Job Fair at AAAI-19

The 2019 AAAI/ACM Job Fair will be held Thursday, January 31 from 12:30 – 3:00 PM. The 2.5-hour event will include an opportunity for a short presentation by participating employers as well as informal mingling. The Job Fair is open to all AAAI-19 technical registrants. All other participants (employers and job seekers) must register by selecting the appropriate category at the AAAI registration site (see [aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-19/registration/](http://aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-19/registration/)).

The 2019 AAAI/ACM Job Fair is a place for students and professionals looking for internships or jobs to meet with representatives from over 20 companies and academia in an informal "meet-and-greet" atmosphere. If you are representing a company, research organization or university and would like to participate in the job fair, please

send an email with your contact information to [aaai19jobfair@aaai.org](mailto:aaai19jobfair@aaai.org) to see if any spots remain open. The organizers of the AAAI/ACM SIGAI Job Fair are John Dickerson (University of Maryland, USA) and Chris Amato (North-eastern University, USA).

## The Seventh AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP-19)

Please join us for the Seventh AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 2019), to be held October 28–30 at the Skamania Lodge, located in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in the town of Stevenson, Washington, 45 minutes from Portland, Oregon. The resort offers a distinctly Pacific North-western experience, featuring a three-story stone fireplace and sweeping river views.

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. We promote the exchange of advances in human computation and crowdsourcing not only among researchers, but also engineers and practitioners, to encourage dialogue across disciplines and communities of practice.

Please visit [www.humancomputation.com/2019](http://www.humancomputation.com/2019) for more details as they become available.

## ICWSM-19

The Thirteenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media

(ICWSM) will be held June 11–14, 2019 at the University of Munich in Munich, Germany. For information about paper submissions, as well as the planned program, please refer to [icwsm.org/2019](http://icwsm.org/2019).

## AAAI Executive Council Minutes

A meeting of the AAAI Executive Council was held via telecom on July 26, 2018.

*Attending:* Rao Kambhampati, Yolanda Gil, Tom Dietterich, David Smith, Gene Freuder, Ashok Goel, Charles Isbell, David Leake, Diane Litman, Jennifer Neville, Cynthia Rudin, Stephen Smith, Matthijs Spaan, Peter Stone, Kiri Wagstaff

*Not Attending:* Blai Bonet, Mausam, Michela Milano, Qiang Yang

Rao Kambhampati called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. He noted that another special meeting will be held at the end of August or beginning of September to install the new president-elect and councilors, as the 2018 election is still underway. It is expected that meeting will be fairly short. Yolanda Gil added that the minutes of this meeting will be available by then, which will enable new members of the Council to become familiar with the current topics being discussed by the Council. This will enable them to easily select the committees on which they wish to serve.

### Mid-Year Financial Update

David Smith reviewed the June 2018 financial statement, including the status of the major cost centers. He reported that overall the actuals are meeting or exceeding budget expectations. Smith reminded the Council that EAAI and IAAI do not have separate registration fees, and are subsidized by the main conference income. Kambhampati emphasized that he feels that EAAI is something that AAAI should continue to support as part of its outreach and public service mission. Smith noted that the income for the Spring Symposium was down, and Carol Hamilton explained that it often fluctuates with the number of symposia, but that the individual symposia had been well attended. Smith suggest-

ed that we keep track of these trends for next year. ICWSM-18 and HCOMP-18 were both successful, with increases in attendance. Smith noted that although we budgeted for a deficit of \$116K for the year, it is likely that AAAI will have surplus due to the large attendance at AAAI-18. The standard practice for nonprofits is that they can conservatively draw down their reserves by 3–5% per year. Smith suggested that we could certainly consider this range for future years.

Several new initiatives were discussed at the last meeting, such as an expansion of the *AI Magazine* and the associated staff costs, so these types of things could be considered in the next budget cycle.

Tom Dietterich inquired about the status of a new conference coordinator. Hamilton explained that she has been busy training the two new staff members in conference and membership, and anticipates more training with the new Publications Coordinator. She will fill the need for conference assistance with temporary help this year, and will likely add a permanent member of the staff in 2019. Dietterich noted that the new Publications Coordinator will overlap with Mike Hamilton for about a year, which will result in a temporary increase in the salary budget. Dietterich suggested that we also might want to try to reduce the registration fees for 2019 in order to help with the increased travel costs for attendees. Matthijs Spaan inquired about whether a similar attendance was expected in 2019; Hamilton noted that the number of submitted papers is sometimes a good indicator, so we will have that number in September.

### Approval of February 2018 Minutes

Kambhampati pointed the Council members to the updated version of the February 3, 2018 meeting minutes, and asked if anyone had any comments or changes to suggest. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### Conference Update

Updates to the AAAI-19 presentation format and science communication workshop proposal were discussed as follows.

## AAAI 2019 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI presents the 2019 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday – Wednesday, March 25–27, 2019, at Stanford University. The topics of the nine symposia will be:

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Autonomous Machines and Human Awareness: User Interventions, Intuition and Mutually Constructed Context  
Ranjeev Mittu and Don Sofge (Naval Research Laboratory), W.F. Lawless (Paine College)

Beyond Curve Fitting — Causation, Counterfactuals and Imagination-Based AI

Elias Bareinboim (Purdue University), Sridhar Mahadevan (Adobe & UMass), Prasad Tadepalli (Oregon State), Csaba Szepesvari (DeepMind & University of Alberta), Judea Pearl (University of California, Los Angeles)

Combining Machine Learning with Knowledge Engineering  
Andreas Martin and Knut Hinkelmann (FHNW University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland)

Interpretable AI for Well-Being: Understanding Cognitive Bias and Social Embeddedness

Takashi Kido (Preferred Networks, Inc., Japan) and Keiki Takadama (The University of Electro-Communications, Japan)

Privacy-Enhancing Artificial Intelligence and Language Technologies  
Shomir Wilson (Pennsylvania State University), Sepideh Ghanavati (University of Maine), Kambiz Ghazinour (Kent State University), Norman Sadeh (Carnegie Mellon University)

Story-Enabled Intelligence

Dylan Holmes (MIT), Leilani H. Gilpin (MIT), Jamie C. Macbeth (Smith College)

Towards Artificial Intelligence for Collaborative, Open Scientific Discovery  
Evan Patterson (Stanford University), Ioana Baldini (IBM Research AI), Peter Bull (DrivenData)

Conscious AI Systems

Antonio Chella (University of Palermo and ICAR-CNR, Italy), David Gamez (Middlesex University, UK), Patrick Lincoln (SRI International), Riccardo Manzotti (IULM University, Italy) Jonathan Pfautz (DARPA)

Verification of Neural Networks

Clark Barrett (Stanford University) and Alessio Lomuscio (Imperial College London, UK)

For additional information, and links to the supplementary websites for each symposium, please see [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss19.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss19.php).

Registration information will be available in January, 2019. The final registration deadline for participation will be March 1, 2019.

Please contact AAAI at [sss19@aaai.org](mailto:sss19@aaai.org) with any questions.

session chairs have been selected, the authors will again be able to provide this link to the session chair for their session, who will provide constructive feedback to the author.

Freuder will be providing a guideline and checklist to the session chairs to help with this process. He also noted that the chairs will be encouraging a more interactive format during the sessions with more questions and comments from the session chair and audience during the talk. The session chairs will be asked to announce this format at the beginning of their sessions.

### Science Communication Workshop Proposal

In conjunction with Freuder's inquiry into ways to improve presentations at the conference, he researched the workshops that are available through the Alda Center in Washington, DC. After further research, he discovered that the workshops are focused more closely on communicating science to the media and public, rather than via technical talks. Therefore, the purpose of the proposal has shifted to perhaps a vehicle for Council members or other key individuals to get some pointers on how to communicate better with the media about AI. He felt this was particularly topical given the tremendous upsurge in interest in AI.

Gil opened this proposal up to the Council for comments. Kiri Wagstaff noted that the cost was high. Kambhampati shared Kiri's concern, and noted that for the original purpose of enhancing presentations at the conference, it might be more useful to have a large workshop or meeting for all accepted authors at the beginning of the conference that would review important tips for successful presentations. Similar techniques have been used at science fairs. Gil noted that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has special kits available for researchers who need to communicate with the press. She suggested that perhaps one of the NSF Fellows who comes to the conference could offer a workshop on this topic, and also suggested that this topic be reconsidered at the January 2019 physical meeting of the Council.

### AIES Colocation

Kambhampati reported that one of the

### Presentation Format

Gene Freuder reported on plans for improving the presentation format of technical talks during the conference. Accepted authors will have the option

of submitting a link to their slides or videos, which will facilitate the designation of the presentation format for their talk by the program cochairs. Once the schedule is finalized and the

## First Call for Nominations for the 2019 AAAI Executive Council Election

The 2019 Nominating Committee is seeking nominations from the AAAI membership for the position of Executive Councilor. In 2019, AAAI members will elect four new councilors to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. All elected councilors are required to attend all council meetings each year (usually 1–2 in person and 2–3 via telecon), and actively participate in AAAI activities.

Nominees must be current members of AAAI. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular AAAI members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. (Student and institutional members are not eligible to submit candidates' names.)

The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate eight candidates for councilor in early spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI regular members will vote in late spring, and the new members of the Executive Council will be installed in the summer of 2019.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the following information to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 2275 East Bayshore Road, Suite 160, Palo Alto, CA 94303; by fax to 650/321-4457; or by email to [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto: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 or she 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 February 15, 2019.

program chairs of AIES will be Vincent Conitzer, who is in the process of recruiting the other program chairs in the other disciplines. Hamilton confirmed that the dates will be January 27–28, during the workshop/tutorial days.

### AI and Industry Initiative

Gil presented a report on the status of the subcommittee formed to study the current and future plans for increased focus on AI and Industry. The goal of

the committee is to explore ways to have a stronger sponsorship and participation from industry at the conference; to investigate the possibility of a follow-up to the 2017 “AI in Practice”



## AAAI Member News

### Marie desJardins

AAAI congratulates AAAI Fellow Marie desJardins on her recent appointment as Dean of the College of Organizational, Computational, and Information Sciences (COCIS) at Simmons University (formerly Simmons College), one of the first institutions of higher education in the United States to focus on preparing women for leadership. In her new position desJardins will work with faculty, students, and the Simmons community to build a new interdisciplinary college to integrate computational disciplines, traditional and digital information sciences, and the business school, approaching entrepreneurship and leadership in a new, more robust way. The future of COCIS will build on Simmons' historic commitment to women's education and its thoughtful approach to empowering women to be leaders in their fields, particularly in STEM-based industries. The disciplines represented within COCIS align well with desJardins's experience in artificial intelligence research, computing ethics, computing education, and diversity in computing.

Simmons University ([www.simmons.edu](http://www.simmons.edu)) is a nationally recognized private college located in the heart of Boston. Founded in 1899, Simmons is the only undergraduate women's college in Boston, and maintains a history of visionary thinking and a focus on social responsibility.

### Zohar Manna

AAAI is sad to report the passing of Zohar Manna, Stanford University professor emeritus, on August 30, 2018 at his home in Netanya, Israel, after several months of illness. He was 79. Manna was a fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery and was a pioneer in the use of formal methods for automated reasoning, verification, and synthesis, on which subjects he authored or coauthored nine books. He served on the faculties of the Weizmann Institute and Stanford University for many years and was recipient of Guggenheim and Fullbright fellowships and of the Herbrand Award for distinguished contributions to automated reasoning. He is survived by his wife of half a century, Nitza, children, Irit, Hagit, Yonit, and Amit, and five grandchildren, and by his 29 doctoral students. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

event in San Francisco; to consider ways to reconfigure the IAAI conference in part to facilitate its growth and relevance; to increase the visibility of the AAAI Job Fair and exhibit pro-

grams; and to translate the current interest in AI into more energy and industry involvement at the conference.

Members of the committee include

Yolanda Gil, Gene Freuder, Xavier Amatriain, Evgeniy Gabrilovich, Karen Myers, and Eric Horvitz. The committee concluded that better communication channels are needed to make

industry professionals aware of opportunities at AAAI.

Gil noted that formal collaborations could be set up between AAAI and individual companies to enhance their experience at the conference. The committee had three sets of recommendations: short-term, mid-term, and long-term. Gil would like the Council to focus on the short and mid-term recommendations for now.

In the short-term, the committee recommends advertising (especially via social media) the availability of AAAI opportunities for industry, such as conference events, chapters, the job bank, and senior member and fellows programs, and to develop industry memberships to create stable and continuous relationships with industry.

In the mid-term, the Council should reimagine industry events at the conference, including more participation from outside of AAAI for IAAI; more panels, speakers, and events that would appeal to industry; technical matchmaking lunches for industry and PhD students and faculty; and a collaboration fair with short pitch presentations.

Other suggestions included, but were not limited to, holding another "AI in Practice" event when the conference is held in a location conducive to good participation; including industry features at all AAAI events, and establishing an industry advisory board for AAAI.

Gil suggested that a few key people be recruited to promote these programs via social media. Karen Myers (IAAI-19 Conference Chair) is working to implement some of the suggestions related to IAAI as soon as 2019.

In the longer term, the committee suggested hiring a staff member to handle communications with industry, as well as to establish an industry-focused award, such as "Best Application" or Best AI Software," for example.

Gil solicited feedback from the Council, and Kambhampati expressed his support for having the AI in Practice event in conjunction with the Spring Symposium every year, and encouraged the committee to consider having it as early as 2019. He also was enthusiastic about the idea of corporate memberships, and encouraged the membership committee to consider

appropriate fees and benefits for this type of ongoing affiliation status.

Freuder agreed to take this idea to the membership committee for feedback for review at the September meeting. With regard to the best AI Application award, and perhaps at the AI in Practice event, and he noted that a similar award is being considered by ACM SIGAI.

Peter Stone suggested that a pitch competition, hosted by a Bay Area venture capitalist, would be a great addition to AI in Practice. He noted that a committee could be formed to select a few papers at the AAAI conference, and encourage the authors to bring their idea to the spring symposium with a business plan.

Gil reminded the Council to send names of potential "tweeters."

### AAAI Code of Conduct

David Smith reported that the document drafted at the February meeting was reviewed by the lawyer, who made some edits to the document. He also prepared some overall comments, which Smith reviewed with the Council.

Of particular note, the lawyer stated that if we adopt the current Code of Conduct, we are obligated to follow through with any procedures or sanctions that we stipulate in the document. AAAI would need to have a mechanism in place to deal with violations, and be serious about enforcing it to avoid any liability.

Freuder inquired about liability for individual councilors. Although a legal opinion about this is required, AAAI does have professional liability insurance for its Executive Council members and other key personnel, which would cover legal costs, unless negligence is determined.

Dietterich and Smith noted that we could be sued in order to force action on our part, or for failing to deal with violations. The second point emphasized by the lawyer was that members who fail to live up to the terms of the Code of Conduct could be sued by a third party if they failed to live up to a specific duty, so the Council should consider how the Code of Conduct might possibly affect individual members. Finally, the Code of Conduct, as drafted, has wide-reaching implica-

tions for several specialty areas of the law, such as privacy, intellectual property, and should probably be reviewed by a specialist that deals with non-profit organizations.

Smith suggested that the Code of Conduct could be revised with the lawyer's recommendations in mind, and then could be reviewed by a specialist.

Gil noted that ACM has recently adopted a Code of Ethics that might provide some guidance as the Council moves forward with the AAAI document. This particular document is more educational and aspirational in tone about what ACM members should consider as an appropriate Code of Ethics for their professional lives. Gil suggested that AAAI could follow this example to address some of the lawyer's concerns.

Kambhampati noted that a number of other procedural documents hinge on the adoption of the AAAI Code of Conduct (or Ethics), and the hope is that the document can be finalized very soon in order to move forward with the implementation of these other procedures, such as a Code of Conduct for the AAAI Conference. However, it appears that having a Code of Conduct with stated sanctions will open up the Association for liability. On the other hand, conference attendees expect conference organizers to explicitly state their expectations for acceptable conference conduct, as well as the basic ethical tenets of the organizing society.

Freuder noted that there are issues of harassment or other infractions that need to be addressed in some manner.

Cynthia Rudin expressed her concern about the current Code of Conduct not stipulating explicit consequences for violations, and suggested that more concrete consequences might be less problematic legally and less open to varying interpretations.

Gil reminded the Council about Calisto, an organization that records violations of discrimination and harassment across different universities, and may be expanding to include conferences. She will be meeting with them about adopting AAAI so that any reports of these types of violations can be reported to them.



*Photo courtesy iStock*

## Second AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society

January 27–28, 2019 \* Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

As AI is becoming more pervasive in our lives, its impact on society is more significant and concerns and issues are being raised regarding aspects such as value alignment, data handling and bias, regulations, and workforce displacement. Only a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder effort can find the best ways to address these concerns, including experts of various disciplines, such as ethics, philosophy, economics, sociology, psychology, law, history, and politics. AAAI and ACM are pleased to present the Second Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society.

The conference will be colocated again with AAAI-19 on January 27–28, 2019 in Honolulu. The program of the conference will include peer-reviewed paper presentations, invited talks, panels, and working sessions.

Registration will be available via the AAAI-19 registration site at [aaainconf.cvent.com/aaai19](http://aaainconf.cvent.com/aaai19).

*For more information, please see [www.aies-conference.com](http://www.aies-conference.com).*

Callisto, a neutral third party, provides an initial avenue for individuals to report an incident, and the individual can decide later if they want any information released to AAAI or another entity. Callisto does study reports across organizations to determine if there are any patterns of behavior, and alerts individuals if they find cases of them.

David Smith noted that the final paragraph does specifically address consequences for violation, including revocation of membership, as specified in the bylaws, as well as exclusion from conferences or publications at the discretion of the Executive Council. He noted that this allows for some flexibility in determining the severity of the infraction, and cautioned against making sanctions any more specific than that.

Gil reminded everyone that this clause requires us to establish a mechanism to deal with infractions, and it is currently unclear if we want to do this.

Gil suggested that the Ethics Committee do some quick modifications to the current document to adopt a more aspirational tone for most points, except possibly those already governed by laws (particularly points 4 and 5). It could then be considered at the September meeting. Gil, Smith, and Rudin agreed to follow up on this.

### AI4K12 Initiative

Gil reported that Dave Touretzky at Carnegie Mellon has formed this initiative for AAAI in conjunction with the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) to develop guidelines for teachers who want to teach AI.

A special symposium will be colocated with the AAAI Fall Symposium Series on October 20 in Washington, DC. Members of the AI research and education communities are invited to participate in this event to share ideas with the working group and help shape its efforts in the coming year.

Gil encouraged Council members to contact Touretzky if they have any ideas or wish to become involved.

### Election/Awards Update

Tom Dietterich reported that the committee had 18 nominations for the

Executive Council this year. He would still like to see better diversity across several factors, such as geography and gender, in the pool of candidates. There were 12 nominees for president-elect, and Dieterich suggested that it would be great to find a way to engage further with the unsuccessful presidential candidate, given that both individuals are highly qualified and are willing and ready to contribute to the organization.

Dieterich reported that the ACM SIGAI/AAAI Dissertation Award has now been approved by the ACM Awards Committee and will now go to the ACM Council for final approval.

Kambhampati, who is assuming the chair of Fellows, Awards, and Nominations committees, thanked Dieterich for his help in this transition. He noted that he will be employing more social media to encourage nominations, as well as reaching out to potential nominators of deserving individuals. He also reported that he has filled the open positions on the Fellows Selection Committee.

### AI Hub Update

Tom Dieterich reported that there has been very little activity on AI Hub. They are still short of their funding goal, and have targeted specific organizations to approach to complete this process. He did mention that AI Hub has plans to run short courses on how to communicate with the press, which would be included in our sponsorship.

### AAAI Press Transition

David Leake reported that recruitment is underway for a new Publications Coordinator, who will train for about a year and then eventually take over as publications manager. The committee has determined that some tasks will be outsourced, so the new coordinator will orchestrate the process, implementing as much automation as possible as well as using outside vendors for specialized tasks, such as magazine production. AAAI is in the process of upgrading its Open Journal System (OJS), and the new version will greatly facilitate better communication and interaction through all processes, including submission, review, copyediting, and production. It will capture

and monitor discussions that reviewers and others will be able to access to determine progress. It also allows for an expanded definition of roles and permissions, which will enable participation by graduate students at various points in the process.

The coordinator will be an expert in the software, and will farm out tasks as appropriate. The job description is being sent to a variety of agencies and societies that reach the publishing community, and Mike Hamilton has been investigating possible production houses.

Leake also reported that one of the recommendations from the last meeting was for the Publications Committee to develop a phased proposal for what the new online *AI Magazine* site should look like. Askok Goel has estimated the need for 3.5 staff members to make the desired site a reality. Goel will be identifying specific functionality that is needed. The hope is that initial needs can be met by the AAAI website redesign, along with the new capability of OJS3 to produce XML articles.

For the next meeting, the transition committee will be working with Goel and Hamilton to get a description of what the functionality will be and to get a more precise estimate of the costs.

The Executive Council can then review and discuss that for deciding on progressing further for the broader web version for the *AI Magazine*. Gil thanked Mike Hamilton for his help in making this transition smooth, and also Leake and Dieterich for their work on the transition committee.

### Secretary-Treasurer Transition

Kambhampati took a moment to thank Ted Senator for all his past work as Secretary-Treasurer, and also thanked David Smith for so thoughtfully filling Ted's shoes at this first meeting since the transition.

### Industry Bridge Event

Gil solicited feedback on a proposal she received about AAAI partnering with American Express to sponsor an AI event targeting the financial industry, to be held in New York. The content would be both research and applications oriented. The organizing

committee would include both AAAI members and representatives from other companies in the financial sector. This would be a stand-alone event, and would not be connected with any other AAAI program. She asked the Council whether AAAI is ready to encourage this kind of liaison or event.

Dieterich suggested that this might be discussed by the conference committee initially. He noted that this is certainly consistent with AAAI's mission, and that AAAI could conceivably produce a higher quality, more technically interesting event than a straight tradeshow.

Gil emphasized that this type of event is more likely to reach industry participants than the AAAI conference because of its location and the composition of its organizing committee. However, she said they wanted a balance in the program, and hope that AAAI could identify participants from academia, technical speakers, and members of the organizing committee.

Kambhampati mentioned that, although we have not sponsored these type of independent workshops in the past, this is a good example of a targeted program that addresses an area where there is much interest in AI.

Gil will work with the group on a refined proposal and will then circulate the revised proposal to the Conference Committee and the Executive Council for a final recommendation.

### Adjournment

Gil thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 2:06 PM.