AAAI News

Carol McKenna Hamilton

AAAI-98

Registration information for the Fifteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-98) will be available in late March by writing to ncai@aaai.org or at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/1998/aaai98.html. Copies of the AAAI-98 registration brochure are being mailed to all AAAI members. Please note that the deadline for early registrations is May 27, 1998.

The conference will be held July 26–30, 1998, at the beautiful new Monona Terrace Convention Center, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, in Madison, Wisconsin. The conference will feature 16 tutorials, 18 workshops, the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence, the Hall of Champions, the Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, the Robot Building Laboratory, and the Doctoral Consortium. New additions in 1998 will be the Integrated Systems Track of the technical program and the Intelligent Systems Demonstrations Program. Please check the AAAI web site for all the details and deadlines for these programs as well as announcements about other new features.

Collocated Conferences in Madison

Several conferences have decided to collocate with AAAI-98 in Madison this summer. A few of the AAAI-98 tutorials and workshops are being jointly sponsored by two of these conferences, and AAAI will be assisting some of the conferences with their registrations. Please watch our web site for details about cooperative program and registration arrangements. The collocated conferences are

- Eighth International Conference on Inductive Logic Programming (ILP '98), July 22–24 (www.cs.louisville.edu/faculty/page/ilp98)
- Third Annual Genetic Programming Conference (GP-98), July 22–25 (www.genetic-programming.org)
- Symposium on Genetic Algorithms (SGA-98), July 22–25 (www.genetic-algorithm.org)
- Eleventh Annual Conference on Computational Learning Theory (COLT '98), July 24–26 (theory.lcs.mit.edu/COLT-98)
- Fifteenth International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML '98), July 24–26 (www.cs.wisc.edu/icml98)
- Fourteenth Annual Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI-98), July 24–26 (www.uai98.cbmi.upmc.edu)
- Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse (ST&D98), July 29–31 (text2.psych.umn.edu/ST&DHomePage.htmld/)
- Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, August 1–4 (psych.wisc.edu/CogSci98/conf.html)

The Computing Research Association is planning a Career Development Workshop on Monday, July 27. Details can be found at www.cra.org.

AAAI-98 Student Programs

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Scholarship and Volunteer Programs for students interested in attending the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Madison, Wisconsin, July 26–30. The Scholarship Program provides partial travel support and a complimentary technical program registration for students who (1) are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; (2) are members of AAAI; (3) submit papers to the technical program or letters of recommendation from their faculty adviser; and (4) submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 15, 1998. In addition, repeat scholarship applicants must have fulfilled the volunteer and reporting requirements for previous awards.

In the event that scholarship applications exceed available funds, preference will be given to students who have an accepted technical paper and then to students who are actively participating in the conference in some way. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply. After the conference, an expense report will be required to account for the funds awarded. For further information about the Scholarship Program or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at scholarships@aaai.org or at 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, 650-328-3123.

All student scholarship recipients will be required to participate in the Student Volunteer Program to support AAAI organizers in Madison. The Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference, and student participation is a valuable contribution.

Students not requiring travel assistance should only apply for the Volunteer Program, which provides complimentary registration to full-time students, including conference proceedings, in exchange for assisting AAAI-98 organizers in Madison. This program does not provide any scholarship funds and is designed for local students or students who have other sources for travel funds. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at volunteer@aaai.org or at the previous address. The deadline for volunteer applications is May 31, 1998.

KDD-98

The Fourth International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD-98) will be held at the Marriott Marquis on Times Square in New York City from August 27–31, 1998. The conference will be immedi-

ately preceded by the Very Large Databases Conference (VLDB). KDD-98 has expanded its tutorial, workshop, and exhibit program this year in response to the overwhelming turnout in 1997. Registration and program information for KDD-98 will be available in April by writing to kdd@aaai.org or at www.aaai.org/Conferences/KDD/1998/kdd98.html. Please note that the early registration deadline is June 17, 1998.

AAAI Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mail for your AAAI ballot, which will be mailed to all regular AAAI members in late April. The membership will vote for four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. Ballots will be due back at the AAAI office no later than June 12. The Annual Business Meeting for AAAI will be held this summer during AAAI-98 in Madison, Wisconsin. The exact day and time will be announced on the ballot, in the summer issue of the magazine, and in the conference program.

1998 Fall Symposium Series

The following eight symposia have been selected for the 1998 Fall Symposium Series, to be held October 23–25, 1998, at the Omni Rosen Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

■ Artificial Intelligence and Link Analysis. *Chair:* David Jensen (jensen@cs.umass.edu)
■ Cognitive Robotics. *Chair:* Giuseppe De Giacomo (degiacomo@dis.uniroma1.it)
■ Distributed Continual Planning. *Chair:* Marie desJardins (marie@erg.sri.com)
■ Emotional and Intelligent: The Tangled Knot of Cognition. *Chair:* Dolores Canamero (lola@arti.vub.ac.be)
■ Formalizing Visual Reasoning. *Chair:* Bernd Meyer (bernd.meyer@acm.org)
■ Integrated Planning for Autonomous Agent Architectures. *Cochairs:* Glenn Wasson (wasson@virginia.edu) and Gabe Ferrer (ferrer@virginia.edu)
■ Planning with Partially Observable Markov Decision Processes. *Chair:* Michael Littman (mlittman@cs.duke.edu)
■ Robotics and Biology: Developing the Connections. *Chair:* Barbara Webb (Barbara.Webb@nottingham.ac.uk)

The deadline for submissions is April 15, 1998. The Call for Participation has been sent to all AAAI members and is posted on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/1998/fssparticipation-98.html.

1999 Symposium Series

Please watch the AAAI web site and your mailboxes for the Call for Proposals for the 1999 Spring and Fall Symposium Series. The tentative deadline for proposals is June 6, 1998.

AAAI-99

AAAI is pleased to announce that the Sixteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-99) and the Eleventh Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Program (IAAI-99) will be held in Orlando, Florida, from July 18–22, 1999. The Call for Participation will be published this summer and will be available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Conferences/conferences.html. Please watch for future updates on collocated conferences in 1999.

AAAI Member List Server

Would you like to receive e-mail notifications of upcoming deadlines and programs? If so, please subscribe to our AAAI membership list server by writing to majordomo@aaai.org with the following text in the body of the message: subscribe aaai-members.

AAAI Directory

We have plans in the near future to expand our membership directory on the AAAI web site to include complete postal and e-mail address (no telephone numbers). The directory is, and will continue to be, accessible to AAAI members only. Unlike past printed directories, we will include ALL AAAI members' names and addresses unless you contact us and instruct us not to do so. To exclude your name and address from the directory, please write to membership@aaai.org by June 1, 1998.

AAAI Research Labs Database

AAAI receives many inquiries about where AI research is being conducted. We are in the process of building a database that we hope will represent an accurate list of such places. We need your help to identify all the possible sites. If you work in a university, industry, or government research lab and would like to check to see if your lab or department is on our list, please write to membership@aaai.org. If it is not, please send complete contact information for your institution, including the chair's or director's name, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and URL (if appropriate) to membership@aaai.org.

Minutes, Executive Council Meeting

Stanford, California March 23, 1997
Attending: Randy Davis, Danny Bobrow, Jon Doyle, Tim Finin, Barbara Grosz, Leslie Pack Kaelbling, Steve Minton, Mel Montemerlo, Norm Nielsen, Ramesh Patil, Jude Shavlik, Dave Waltz, Mike Hamilton, and Carol Hamilton. AAAI President Randy Davis convened the meeting at 1:00 PM.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance*:* Norm Nielsen, secretary-treasurer, reported that the AAAI finished out the 1996 calendar year with about $125,000 in excess program revenue. This surplus, combined with the interest income from AAAI investments, supported the operating expenses and the grant activity. Investments have grown by about 5 percent since December 1995. The Council requested some feedback on AAAI's new investment strategy at the summer meeting. Nielsen also reported that memberships seem to reaching a stable point and are expected to stay at the current level of about 5400 paid members for some time. The Council suggested that all

nonmembers registered for the national conference receive a one-year membership. The nonmember fee should be adjusted to accommodate for this.

Conference: Executive Director Carol Hamilton reported that National Conference (AAAI-97) experienced a dramatic drop in the number of paper submissions for 1997. There were three key factors that contributed to this: (1) papers submission rates always drop in an IJCAI year, (2) the AAAI deadline was three weeks prior to the IJCAI paper deadline and was also immediately following the winter holidays, and (3) AAAI instituted a new policy of not allowing multiple submissions. The second factor will be addressed for future submission deadlines. However, the program cochairs, Bonnie Webber and Ben Kuipers, reported that the paper quality remained high.

To combat the drop in papers, the Council recommended that the 1998 chairs stress the importance of having preliminary work submitted and represented at the conference. The chairs might want to consider writing an article for the magazine to encourage submissions, especially in areas that have been underrepresented at recent conferences. They might want to place a special focus on one area in particular, such as vision and robotics or intelligent agents and robotics. Special events might be developed around a chosen area. It was also suggested that a program committee member be appointed who would recruit reviewers from workshops or conferences already in existence.

The WWW program committee registration and self-selection software worked well this year. The Council thanked Ramesh Patil for all his work in this area. In the future, the AAAI office will manage this software. Specific reporting improvements have already been suggested for 1998. More time was allowed for self-selection, which provided much better data for the chairs to work with.

The conference is expected to experience some decline in revenue this year. However, the registration rates will not be increased, and the shortfall will be subsidized by AAAI. To gather feedback from members on confer-

ence activities, a survey will be designed that will address site and fee concerns as well as provide other useful information.

The Hall of Champions will include a series of challenge matches between best computer players of classic games of strategy, including chess, checkers, bridge, scrabble, and backgammon, and some of the best human players. This will be subsidized wholly by a AAAI grant.

The IAAI-97 program has been expanded to include a track on emerging areas of AI technology or applications. There are 11 award-winning deployed application papers and 22 emerging AI papers. Six of the latter are papers that were originally submitted to AAAI. In an effort to continue to integrate the IAAI program into the AAAI conference, there will be two joint AAAI-IAAI invited talks. There was also close collaboration between all the AAAI and IAAI program cochairs on the coordination of the program schedules. The technical program registration fee includes both AAAI and IAAI.

The Robot Building Laboratory will be subsidized by the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics. AAAI will provide logistical support and facilities. A grant will cover our expenses, which are expected to be under $5000. This structure was designed to reduce AAAI's risk and enable the organizers to set the fees low. Dave Miller is the organizer.

The Robot Competition has been expanded to include several new events, including vacuuming rooms, finding TV remote controls, serving hors d'oeuvres during the opening reception, and "discovering life on Mars." This event is being subsidized by a AAAI grant and an ARPA grant but not by technical registration fees.

The SIGART-AAAI Doctoral Consortium will be held for the second year. It received a lower submission rate this year, perhaps because IJCAI is running a similar program. Thirteen of 16 submissions were accepted for inclusion in the proceedings, although not all these will be presented during the consortium because of time constraints. However, all 16 students will be given travel stipends to attend the event.

The Student Abstract and Poster Pro-

gram received 40 submissions, of which 30 were accepted for presentation and publication in the proceedings. The poster session will be held in conjunction with the opening reception.

The Tutorial Forum will continue its new format in 1997. Sixteen tutorials will be presented, and one registration fee will include four tutorials and accompanying syllabi. Registration rates increased slightly for regular (not student) attendees to include four syllabi instead of only one.

No video will be produced to accompany the proceedings in 1997 because of the small number of videos submitted for accepted papers.

The Workshop Program will include 14 workshops, which is up slightly from 1996, because of an extra effort made to solicit more proposals after the November Executive Council Meeting. The new policy of requiring workshop participants to register for the technical program will go into effect in 1998.

The Third International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD-97) received 171 submissions. It will be held just after the Joint Statistical Meetings in Newport Beach, California. The program will include seven tutorials, demo and poster sessions, and a workshop.

AAAI-98 will be held in Madison, Wisconsin. The conference program cochairs are Jack Mostow and Chuck Rich. At the present time, collocated conferences include Cognitive Science and Genetic Programming. The sites for AAAI-99 and AAAI-2000 have not been announced, but several sites are being considered in the northeastern and southern United States. Recommendations will be made at the summer meeting.

The process of soliciting other small conferences to collocate with AAAI is continuing. Steve Minton contacted the organizers of the Agents Conference and reported that they are committed to the winter timeframe. He has also talked with the organizers of the Machine Learning Conference, but they appear to have commitments for the next few years. He will check back with them in the future.

The AAAI office has continued its conference services by assisting IJCAI-

97 with its paper and review processing as well as its schedule development. AAAI also provides all phases of conference planning for the Genetic Programming Conference. These conferences pay AAAI a flat rate as well as expenses.

Fellows: Thirty -five nominations are under consideration this year, including those ll active from the past 2 years. The AAAI fellows currently account for slightly less than 2.5 percent of the total membership, which is approximately what was envisioned at the start of the program. Fellows Selection Committee Chair Barbara Grosz encouraged members of the Council and other fellows to seek nominations with greater diversity, including international nominees. She reported that the 10-year, post-Ph.D. eligibility rule is working well.

Nominating: Eight candidates have been chosen to be placed on the ballot, and discussions are under way for a candidate for president-elect. The nominating committee chair suggested that the schedule for seeking candidates to run be changed so it does not run concurrently with the fellows selection process. Both committees are chaired by the past president. The Nominating Committee will shift its duties to the fall-winter timeframe.

Symposium: Tim Finin will be rotating off the AAAI Executive Council and the Symposium Committee in July 1997. Leslie Pack Kaelbling will be taking over as the new Symposium Committee Associate Chair. Bonnie Dorr will be stepping down as chair of the Symposium Committee in the spring of 1999. Ian Horswill, the current cochair, will take her place.

The 1996 Fall Series, held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), featured seven symposia and was well attended. For the first time, an invited talk was presented at a plenary session on the last day of the symposium, which was well received. The current spring series has seven symposia, which is smaller than usual because of the cancellation of one symposium. Nevertheless, it has a good preregistration. The 1997 Fall Symposium Series will be held at MIT again with seven symposia. Proposals for both 1998 series are being solicited.

Grants-Scholarships: A total of $5,000 in workshop grants and $7,000 in conference grants has been awarded since August 1, 1996. AAAI continues to support Women and Minority grants, the AAAI-ACM Alan Newell Award, and the Computing Research Association through its grant program. National conference programs supported by grant funds include the 1997 SIGART-AAAI Doctoral Consortium, the 1997 AAAI Mobile Robot Competition, the 1997 AAAI Hall of Champions, and the 1997 Robot Building Lab. Student scholar applications for the national conference are due April 15. AAAI has also provided student subsidies for the following events: KDD-96 ($2,905), 1996 Spring and Fall Symposium Series ($19,882), and the Robot Competition ($10,000).

Publications: AAAI Press currently has over 35 proceedings, 15 edited collections, and 80 technical reports in print and will produce several more of each in 1997. The co-publishing arrangement with The MIT Press remains sound, and the press is financially self-supporting. Plans for the first online, multimedia book are in the works. The Council agreed that putting technical reports online would be valuable, but no consensus was reached on the best way to achieve this. Electronic versions of all papers from AAAI events are requested from authors and are being archived for later publication.

Submissions for *AI Magazine* are up considerably, thanks to the efforts of Editor-in-Chief Jude Shavlik. The magazine is subsidized by membership dues and a small amount of advertising, although advertising rates were cut by one-third to account for the decline in membership over the past several years. Trades of advertising space have resulted in good exposure for AAAI events.

The AAAI web site now contains over 2000 files, including volumes 8–18 of *AI Magazine*. Members and other interested parties increasingly use the web site as their main source of information about upcoming AAAI events. Certain portions are restricted to members only, including recent issues of the magazine and the AAAI Directory.

Other Business: Leslie Pack Kaelbling was confirmed by the Executive Council as the new associate chair for the Symposium Committee. She will assume this post immediately, to be involved in the planning for the next symposium series in the fall.

Barbara Grosz reported that Marvin Denicoff of the CSTB of National Research Council is developing a report on the history of innovations in computing, which will include a history of AI. Denicoff has requested that a "Basic Research, Where Are We Going, Vision Workshop" be conducted. There was some discussion about who should fund such a workshop and how it should be organized. Randy Davis will follow up with Marvin Denicoff.

Jon Doyle requested a review of the AAAI copyright policy and the possibility of adopting another policy that is seemingly less restrictive. Mike Hamilton reviewed our copyright policy with the Council. The copyright policy has been revamped in the past two years to encompass changes needed for electronic publishing issues. The Council did not perceive any other needed changes.

Jon Doyle raised concerns about the lack of submissions on the preprint server. He suggested that more publicity and a few improvements to the web site might increase submissions. A few options that will be explored by staff and the publications committee include a "what's new" button, e-mail notifications of new submissions, better search mechanisms, and better categorization of subject areas.

Jon Doyle mentioned that Erik Sandewall is developing an online publications system for AI research and suggested that the Publications Committee investigate his progress in this area. Doyle hoped to have more information about this project at the summer Council meeting.

Mel Montemerlo suggested that the Council consider organizing an International Science Fair for AI. Because of the scope of this kind of project, the Council did not decide to take on this project at the present time.

Randy Davis suggested that Carol Hamilton implement a Council web page that will include minutes, re-

Proceedings, Artificial Intelligence and Manufacturing Research Planning

Edited by George F. Luger; Leslie D. Interrante, Chair

This workshop was designed to bridge the gaps between problem and solution perspectives of researchers in AI and those in manufacturing. Its specific focus was to build greater mutual understanding of important research challenges and technological potential, break down cultural barriers, and foster future interaction and collaboration. Specific topics included AI in various manufacturing lifecycle activities, AI and business process reengineering, AI and enterprise integration, and AI and its role in supporting new manufacturing concepts. The workshop was held June 24–26, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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www.aaai.org/Conferences/ National/1998/
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ers spoke about current issues and projects. Tom Kalil outlined the new White House internet initiatives, including the $100 million in fiscal 1998 for a next-generation internet. Kalil also invited input from CRA regarding the creation of a presidential fellows program. Tom Weimer discussed some of the changes anticipated in 1997 for the congressional committee on science policy. The most important change will be in the leadership of the committee. The new agenda will likely focus on space, and the committee will actively seek input from industry and academia.

A version of the "Case for Computing" is now being produced by the CRA. At the time of the CRA meeting, there was no AI representation on the Case for Computing web pages, but Randy Davis noted that Dave Waltz has written a piece on AI, entitled "Artificial Intelligence: Realizing the Ultimate Promises of Computing."

Davis announced that Tom Dean has stepped down as the AAAI representative on the CRA board. Davis and Waltz will be seeking a replacement during the coming months. Dean will continue to brief AAAI on CRA activities until a replacement can be found.

After an exhaustive search, Jim Hoard of Boeing has agreed to head up the National Committee for IJCAI-2001. Jim is the manager of the Natural Language Processing Program at Boeing Information and Support Services, Research and Technology, and the principal investigator of the natural language understanding project. He has already begun to recruit members for the committee, including Jeff Bradshaw (Boeing, Information and Support Services, Research and Technology), Rick Wojcik (Boeing, Information and Support Services, Research and Technology), Eric Horvitz (Microsoft), and Gene Ball (Microsoft). He is still seeking one or two representatives from the University of Washington. Jim is also investigating possible sites for special events and tours, including the Museum of Flight, the Pacific Science Center, the Space Needle, and the Boeing factory. Financial support is likely to come from Microsoft, Boeing, and Nintendo.

ports, summaries of discussions, and other helpful information for the Council and committee chairs. Hamilton hopes to have a page up on the AAAI web site before the next Council meeting. Access to this page will be restricted to Executive Council members only.

Randy Davis presented the CRA report, which had been submitted earlier by Tom Dean. At a recent meeting of the CRA Board, science policy advis-