AAAI News

*Fall News from the American Association
for Artificial Intelligence*

Congratulations to the 1999 AAAI Award Winners!

AAAI President David L. Waltz presented the two new AAAI awards recently at AAAI-99 in Orlando, Florida. Each award winner received a certificate and a check for $2500.

The AAAI Distinguished Service Award recognizes one individual each year for extraordinary service to the AI community. The AAAI Awards Committee is pleased to announce that the first recipient of this award was Barbara J. Grosz, Gordon McKay professor of computer science at Harvard University and a past president of AAAI. Grosz was honored for her contributions to the field of AI through sustained service in a multitude of academic, professional society, and government leadership roles at the local, national, and international levels, through which she has had a major effect on the field and on those working in it.

In addition to pursuing her very active research career, Grosz has generously served as a leader in the AI community for the past 20 years in a host of highly demanding positions, including cofounder, Executive Committee and Principal Researcher, Center for the Study of Language and Information, SRI International and Stanford University, 1983–1986; Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, National Research Council, 1994–1998; International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence Conference Chair and Chair, Board of Trustees, 1989–1991, Board of Trustees, 1989–1997, and Program Committee, 1982; American Association for Artificial Intelligence Past-

President, 1995–1997, President, 1993–1995, President-Elect, 1991–1993, Executive Council, 1981–1984 and 1986–1989, and Program Committee, 1982–1984; ACM Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence Chair, 1981–1983, Vice-Chair, 1979–1981; Association for Computational Linguistics Executive Committee, 1986–1988, Program Committee, 1982 and 1989; Editorial Boards of *Artificial Intelligence,* the *American Journal of Computational Linguistics,* and *Computational Intelligence;* and Associate Editor, *Annual Review of Computer Science,* 1984–1990.

During Grosz's tenure as AAAI president, she was responsible for the organization of the DARPA and NSF workshops, which produced key reports exploring visions for the field in the next century. Grosz has also been committed to the advancement of women

AAAI President David Waltz presents the AAAI Distinguished Service Award to Barbara J. Grosz, the Gordon McKay Professor of Computer Science at Harvard University and a Past President of AAAI.

R1: an Expert in the Computer Systems Domain[1]

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INTRODUCTION. R1[2] is a rule-based system that has much in common with other domain-specific systems that have been developed over the past several years [1, 8]. It differs from these systems primarily in its use of Match rather than Generate-and-Test as its central problem solving method [2]; rather than exploring several hypotheses until an acceptable one is found, it exploits its knowledge of its task domain to generate a single acceptable solution. R1's domain of expertise is configuring Digital Equipment Corporation's VAX-11/780 systems. Its input is a customer's order and its output is a set of diagrams displaying the spatial relationships among the components on the order; these diagrams are used by the technician who physically assembles the system. Since an order frequently lacks one or more components required for system functionality, a major part of R1's task is to notice what components are missing and add them to the order. R1 is currently being used on a regular basis by DEC's manufacturing organization.[3]

THE DOMAIN. The VAX-11/780 is the first implementation of DEC's VAX-11 architecture. The VAX-11/780 uses a high speed synchronous bus, the sbi, as its primary interconnect; the central processor, one or two memory control units, up to four massbus interfaces, and up to four unibus interfaces can be connected to the sbi. The massbuses and particularly the unibuses can support a wide variety of peripheral devices. A typical system contains about 90 components; these include cabinets, periperal devices, drivers for the devices, and cables. There are a large number of rules that constrain the ways in which these components may be associated.

R1'S DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS. R1 is implemented in OPS4, a production system language developed at Carnegie-Mellon University [3, 7]. An OPS4 production system

consists of a set of productions held in *production memory* and a set of data elements (eg, state descriptions) held in *working memory*. A production is a rule composed of conditions and actions:

$$P_i \quad (C_1 \ C_2 \ \ldots \ C_n \ \text{-->} \ A_1 \ A_2 \ \ldots \ A_m)$$

Conditions are forms that are instantiated by memory elements. Actions add elements to working memory or modify existing elements. The *recognize-act* cycle repeatedly finds all production instantiations and executes one of them.[4] R1 exploits this recognition match. Its rules have conditions that recognize situations in which a particular type of extension to a particular type of partial configuration is permissable or required; the actions then effect that extension.

OPS4's two memories have been augmented, for this application, with a third. This memory, the *data base*, contains descriptions of each of the 420 components currently supported for the VAX. Each data base entry consists of the name of a component and a set of eight or so attribute/value pairs that indicate the properties of the component that are relevant for the configuration task. As R1 begins to configure an order, it retrieves the relevant component descriptions. As the configuration is generated, working memory grows to contain descriptions of partial configurations, results of various computations, and context symbols that identify the current subtask.`

Production memory contains all of R1's permanent knowledge about how to configure VAX systems. R1 currently has 772 rules that enable it to perform the task.[5] These rules can be viewed as state transition operators. The conditional part of each rule describes features that a state must possess in order for the rule to be applied. The action part of the rule indicates what features of that state have to be modified or what features have to be added in order for a new state that is on a solution path to be generated. Each rule is a more or less autonomous piece of knowledge that watches for a state that it recognizes to be generated. Whenever

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[1] This paper describes R1 as it exists in June of 1980; it is a highly condensed version of [5].

[2] Four years ago I couldn't even say "knowledge engineer", now I ...

[3] The development of R1 was supported by Digital Equipment Corporation. The research that led to the development of OPS4, the language in which R1 is written, was sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DOD), ARPA Order No. 3597, and monitored by the Air Force Avionics Laboratory under Contract F33615-78-C-1151. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the author and should not be interpreted as representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of Digital Equipment Corporation, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or the U.S. Government. VAX, PDP-11, UNIBUS, and MASSBUS are trademarks of Digital Equipment Corporation.

[4] OPS4's cycle time, though it is essentially independent of the size of both production memory and working memory [4], depends on particular features of the production system (eg, the number and complexity of the conditions and actions in each production); the average cycle time for OPS4 interpreting R1 is about 150 milliseconds. OPS4 is implemented in MACLISP; R1 is run on a PDP-10 (model KL) and loads in 412 pages of core.

[5] Only 480 of these rules are "configuration rules"; the remainder contain more general (non domain-specific) knowledge that R1 needs in order to use the configuration rules.

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John McDoermott's Classic Paper Appears in the 1980 AAAI Proceeings.

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in science through her work as interim associate dean for Affirmative Action and chair of the Standing Committee on Women at Harvard University. She organized the "Report on Women in Science at Harvard University," which has had notable impact since its publication in 1991. Grosz has dedicated significant time to the encouragement of young women and men as they pursue their careers in AI, many of whom are now leaders in the field.

Grosz is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (1990), and a recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award in Computer Sciences and Engi-neering, University of California at Berkeley (1997).

The 1999 AAAI Classic Paper Award was given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the First National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1980 at Stanford University, Stanford, California. The Awards Committee selected John McDermott of ellora.com to receive this award for his paper, "R1: An Expert in the Computer Systems Domain." McDermott was honored for seminal contributions to the development of knowledge-based systems and to the establishment of their commercial applicability. (McDermott's paper will be posted on the AAAI web site this fall.)

John McDermott earned his Ph.D (in Philosophy) from the University of Notre Dame in 1969. He taught philosophy for several years and then went to Carnegie Mellon University in 1974 to work for a year with Allen Newell. CMU was such a great environment that he ended up staying there for 15 years. His research at CMU focused mostly on expert systems and on knowledge acquisition. From 1989 until 1996, he was at Digital Equipment Corporation where his research centered mostly on computer-supported cooperative work. In 1996, together with about 30 others from Digital, he founded ellora.com, a company that sells a web-enabled care management application to health-care providers.

For more information about nominations for AAAI 2000 Awards, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton @aaai.org or 650-328-3123.

AAAI-2000

Please mark your calendars now for AAAI-2000, which will be held July 30–August 3 in Austin, Texas, at the Austin Convention Center. The Seventeenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence and the Twelfth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-2000) will run concurrently.

Please see the Calls for Papers and Participation for the AAAI-2000 Technical Program, AAAI-2000 Student Programs, AAAI-2000 Tutorial Forum, AAAI-2000 Workshop Program, and IAAI-2000 at www.aaai.org, and watch for further information regarding the robot, exhibit, and demonstration programs.

Information about the conference is available by writing to ncai@aaai.org or at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2000/aaai-iaai2000.html. Please note that the deadline for submission of electronic title pages is January 18, 2000. Final papers are due January 19, 2000. IAAI-2000 papers are due by January 18, 2000.

AAAI-2000
Student Programs

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Abstract and

Poster Program, the SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Consortium, and the AAAI Scholarship and Volunteer Programs. Students interested in attending the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Austin, July 30–August 3, 2000, should consult the AAAI web site for further information about the Student Abstract program and the Doctoral Consortium. Details about these programs have also been mailed to all AAAI members.
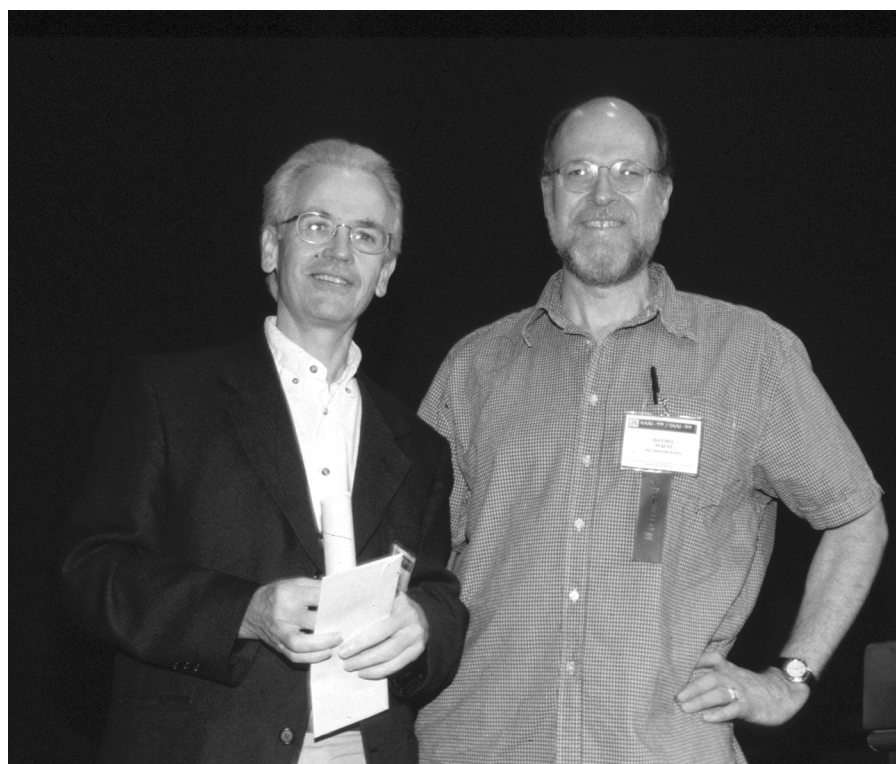
The Scholarship Program provides partial travel support and a complimentary technical program registration for students who (1) are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; (2) are members of AAAI; (3) submit papers to the technical program or letters of recommendation from their faculty adviser; and (4) submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 15, 2000. 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 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 Austin. 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-2000 organizers in Austin. This program does not provide any scholarship funds and is designed for local students or students who have other

AAAI President David Waltz presented The 1999 AAAI Classic Paper Award to John McDermott for R1: An Expert in the Computer Systems Domain.

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. The deadline for volunteer applications is May 31, 2000.
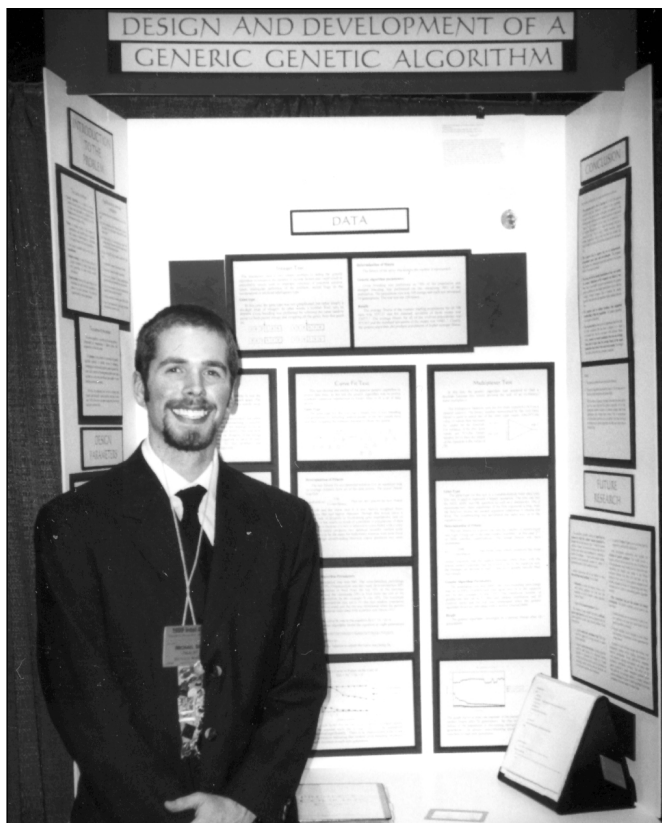
1999 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence's 1999 Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 5–7, Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. The topics of the five symposia are
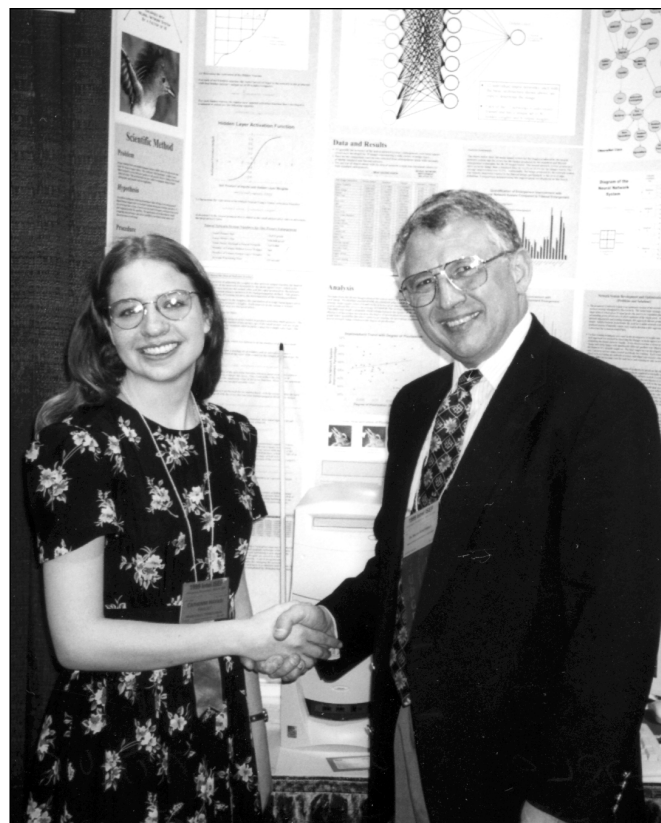
■ Modal and Temporal Logics Based Planning for Open Networked Multimedia Systems
■ Narrative Intelligence
■ Psychological Models of Communication in Collaborative Systems
■ Question-Answering Systems
■ Using Layout for the Generation, Understanding, or Retrieval of Documents

A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Saturday, November 6, and an informal reception will be held on Friday, November 5. Symposia will be limited to 40 to 60 participants. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. In addition to invited participants, a limited number of other interested parties will be allowed to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. Working notes will be prepared and distributed to participants in each symposium but will not otherwise be available unless published as a AAAI Technical Report or edited collection.

The final deadline for registration is September 22, 1999. For registration information, please contact AAAI at fss@aaai.org, or visit AAAI's web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/1999/fss-registration-99.html. A hotel room block has been reserved at the Sea Crest Resort. The cutoff date for reservations is October 4, 1999. Please call 1-800-225-3110 or 1-508-540-9400 for further information.

AAAI First Place Award Winner Michael Smit Shows His Project, Development of a Genetic Algorithm.

AAAI Second Place Winner Catherine Andrea Havasi Is Congratulated by AAAI Judge Mel Montemerlo.

AAAI Establishes Awards at Intel ISEF

AAAI established three awards in 1999 at the annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) to recognize outstanding achievement in the area of intelligent computation and robotics. The awards are intended for the best exhibits in the area of computer science with an AI component. Finalists in other areas with significant computer science components are also eligible. In 1999, the First Place award was $2,000, the Second Place award was $1000, and the Third Place award was $500. All winners received a certificate. The winners and their schools also received a complimentary one-year membership in the AAAI, including a subscription to *AI Magazine*. In addition, the first-place student was awarded a complimentary registration and travel to the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Orlando, Florida.

The 1999 winners are as follows: First Place to Michael Smit, Senior, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, Maryland, for his project entitled *Development of a Genetic Algorithm;* Second Place to Catherine Andrea Havasi, Senior, Franklin Regional Senior High School, Murrysville, Pennsylvania, for her project entitled *System of Feedforward Neural Networks for the Improved Depixelization of Enlarged Bitmap Images;* and Third Place to Daniel Jonathan Haspel, Senior, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Virginia, for his project entitled *Optical Recognition of Musical Scores through Statistically Governed Component Identification.*

AAAI congratulates all the winners! In addition, AAAI would like to recognize all the judges who attended the fair in Philadelphia and selected the three winners from among many remarkable and worthy projects. Many thanks to Mel Montemerlo, Vijay Kumar, Pradeep Khosla, and Mitch Marcus for their generous donations of time and energy.

2000 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

Proposals are being sought for the 2000 Fall Symposium, which will be held at the Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center in North Falmouth, Massachusetts, November 3–5. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Committee (Chair: Ian Horswill, Northwestern University; Cochair: Dan Clancy, NASA Ames Research Center). Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than October 15, 1999. Notifications of acceptance or rejection will be sent to submitters around October 25, 1999. A Call for Participation will be issued in December. Please see www.aaai.org/ Symposia/Fall/2000/ fssproposals-2000. html for further information.
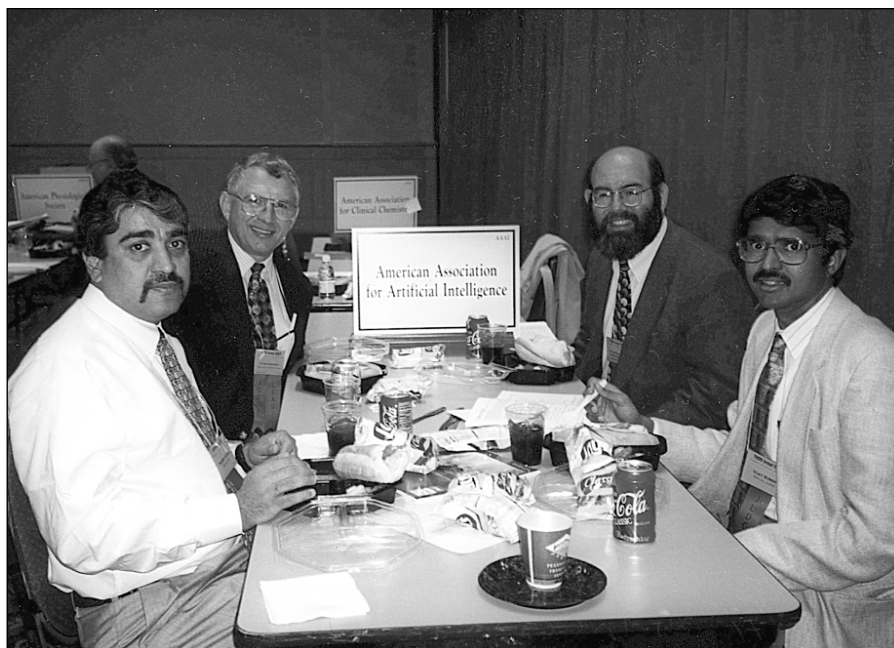
AAAI Third Place Winner Daniel Jonathan Haspel.

AAAI Science Fair Judges Pradeep Khosla, Mel Montemerlo, Mitch Marcus, and Vijay Kumar.

SSS-2000 Call for Participation

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence presents the 2000 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday through Wednesday, March 20–22, 2000, at Stanford University. The topics of the six symposia are

■ Adaptive User Interfaces
■ Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Entertainment
■ Bringing Knowledge to Business Processes
■ My Dinner with R2D2: Natural Dialogues with Practical Robotic Devices
■ Real-Time Autonomous Systems
■ Smart Graphics

Symposia will be limited to 40 to 60 participants. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. Working notes will be prepared and distributed to participants in each symposium. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held

on Tuesday, March 21, and an informal reception will be held on Monday, March 20. In addition to invited participants, a limited number of other interested parties will be able to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration information will be available by December 15, 1999. Please contact AAAI at sss@aaai.org or visit our web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/spring-symposia.html.

Submission Information

Submissions for the symposia are due on October 8, 1999. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 5, 1999. Material to be included in the working notes of the symposium must be received by January 14, 2000. The complete Call for Participation is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2000/sssparticipation-2000.html.

AAAI Executive Council Nominations

In 2000, AAAI members will elect four new councilors to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. All elected councilors are expected to attend at least two council meetings per year and actively participate in

AAAI activities. Nominees must be current members of AAAI. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular AAAI members in good standing to place an individual's name before it for consideration. (Student and library 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 to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI regular members will vote in late spring.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address by mail to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; fax to 650-321-4457; or e-mail to hamilton@aaai.org. 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 November 1, 1999.

AAAI Member News

Saul Amarel of Rutgers University is the 1998 recipient of the Allen Newell

Call for Papers

ICMAS '2000

The Fourth International Conference on MultiAgent Systems

July 7-12, 2000, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston MA, USA

http://icmas.lania.mx

ICMAS is the premiere international forum devoted to understanding the phenomena that arise when (computational) agents interact, to investigating the interplay between agents as individuals and as participants in collective settings, and to formulating languages, architectures, mechanisms, and engineering and evaluation methodologies that apply to multiagent systems.

ICMAS '2000 will feature special sessions and events highlighting some of the most exciting multiagent research issues and applications, including cooperative robotics and agents in electronic commerce. Other federated events and workshops include Agent Theories, Architectures and Languages (ATAL'2000) and Cooperative Information Agents (CIA'2000).

IMPORTANT DATES

- Nov 15, 1999: Deadline for electronic title pages & abstracts
- Nov 17, 1999: Deadline for submitted papers
- Jan 10, 2000: Author notifications will be mailed
- July 7-9, 2000: Federated workshops & tutorials at ICMAS ë2000
- July 10-12, 2000: ICMAS ë2000 main conference

ICMAS '2000 is sponsored by the **International Foundation for MultiAgent Systems** in cooperation with **AAAI**

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Award. The award was presented May 15, 1999 at the ACM Awards Banquet at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. Amarel was honored for his wide-ranging contributions to AI in advancing our understanding of the role of representation in problem solving and of the theory and practice of computational planning and design.

The Allen Newell Award was established in 1993 to honor the memory and achievements of Allen Newell. This endowed award is supported by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence and individual contributions. The award is presented biennially to an individual selected for career contributions that have breadth within computer science or that bridge computer science and other disciplines.

Also honored at the ACM Awards banquet were AAAI members Ronald Brachman, Takeo Kanade, and David Waltz, who were elected in 1999 as ACM Fellows.

Executive Council Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council met at Stanford University on March 21, 1999. (Some votes were conducted by e-mail March 30–April 6.)

Attending: David Waltz, Bruce Buchanan, Jon Doyle, Norm Nielsen, Edwina Rissland, Stuart Russell, Katia Sycara, Mike Hamilton, Carol Hamilton

E-mail participation: David Waltz, Jan Aikins, Bruce Buchanan, Bonnie Dorr, Jon Doyle, Eric Horvitz, Henry Kautz, Leslie Pack Kaelbling, Richard Korf, David McAllester, Mel Montemerlo, Norm Nielsen, Stuart Russell

AAAI President Dave Waltz opened the meeting at 1:05 PM.

Standing Committee Reports

Fellows/Nominating

Carol Hamilton reported that the Fellows Selection Committee is currently reviewing 36 candidates for fellow status in 1999; of these, 17 are new nominations. Their decisions will be available in late April. The Nominating Committee is finalizing the list of candidates for president-elect and AAAI councilor. The ballot will be mailed to all members in May. There was a short discussion about the uncontested election of the president-elect (as outlined in the bylaws), and the Council urged the Nominating Committee to seek candidates from subareas of AI to serve on the Executive Council.

Finance/Membership

Norm Nielsen reported that the association's financial position has continued to improve because of excellent market conditions. The three managers have been doing well, outperforming the S&P in the value market. This has resulted in a slight imbalance in the equity position. However, this will be corrected by withdrawals during the next several months for grants and large conference expenses. The programs are generally breaking even or subsidized through AAAI grants, and the operating costs not charged to

specific programs are covered by income off the operating reserve.

Membership numbers have remained fairly constant for the past few years, with approximately 5000 paid members. AAAI hopes to launch a membership survey sometime in 2000. Several members of the Council volunteered to participate in developing this survey.

Publications

Mike Hamilton reported that the AAAI Press is doing well, with 73 titles in print, plus technical reports. There are five new titles in production currently. Editor-in-Chief Ken Ford has done an excellent job of soliciting proposals for the Press. The Press cost center will show a large one-time charge for a reduction in inventory of past AAAI proceedings. The MIT Press requested this step because of overstock and poor sales on back volumes of the proceedings. The Press is currently working on converting all past proceedings papers and *AI Magazine* articles to electronic format. The Council approved (later confirmed by e-mail) a request for as much as $75,000 to complete this project. The purpose of this conversion will be primarily for use of the files in the AAAI digital library. However, a limited number of proceedings CDs will be available for sale on the project's completion. The *AI Magazine* is in the final phase of its transition to a new editor. Jude Shavlik, who has done an excellent job as editor for the past three years, will step down this summer, and David Leake will take his place. The AAAI web site now has over 7,000 files, including 2,000 full-text papers.

Symposium

The Symposium Series continues to be popular, although it is increasingly difficult to find proposals. This is largely because of the competition from workshops and conferences throughout the year. The Fall Symposium will move to a more retreatlike setting (Cape Cod) this year and will be smaller in scope with only five symposia. Hopefully, this change in venue will reduce costs. The Council will continue to monitor the symposium series to see if further modifications are necessary.

Scholarships/Grants

AAAI continues to fund several women

and minority grants. Scholarship Chair Katia Sycara would also like to identify other worthy candidates. She will follow up with the systers mailing list as well as other organizations that serve ethnic communities. She may develop a Call for Proposals to help identify organizations. AAAI also continues to fund student scholarships to the national conference, both through a general fund and other funds for robotic programs, as well as a scholarship to the symposium series in the spring and fall. There was an extended discussion about the possibility of forming an AI summer school, which AAAI might be interested in helping to fund. However, no definite action was taken on this suggestion.

Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI's workshop grant activity has been below normal, but conference grant activity has remained constant. In addition, AAAI has contributed to two summer schools. Much of AAAI's grant activity revolves around the national conference, including the tutorial forum, intelligent systems demos, robot competition and exhibition, the doctoral consortium, and the robot-building lab.

Conference

Carol Hamilton reported that there were 400 paper submissions for AAAI-99. This drop in submissions from 475 in 1998 was anticipated because of competition from IJCAI-99. However, 1999's submission rate was up by 22 percent from 1997. The acceptance rate was 27 percent. Jim Hendler and Devika Subramanian, AAAI-99 program cochairs, have headed up a Conference Committee of 20 and a Program Committee of 133. New features at the conference this year will include free tutorials with no increase in registration fee, the CHIkids childcare program (canceled after these minutes were taken), the National Botball Championships, and three keynote addresses rather than only one. The only program that will not continue from

Editorial

David Leake, Editor-in-Chief

The AAAI Publications Committee has selected me as the new Editor of *AI Magazine,* starting with this issue. I am honored by the appointment and look forward to the opportunity to guide the magazine as it begins its third decade of publication.

AI Magazine serves the artificial intelligence community in many ways. It is a medium for disseminating information about AI areas and methods to readers across the entire field of AI, as well as to a broad multidisciplinary audience. It is a journal of record for articles on important research and applications advances as well as for meeting reports, reviews, and discussions that illuminate the state of the art and emerging areas. Equally important, it is a forum for sharing visions for the field—perspectives on issues, priorities, and challenges for moving forward. *AI Magazine* records the progress of AI, fosters communication between researchers and practitioners in different subareas, and helps to shape the future of artificial intelligence.

I encourage the AI community to participate actively in *AI Magazine* by submitting significant articles, reports, and commentaries and by responding to published articles in letters to the Editor. I intend to build on the magazine's strengths, continuing the process of refinement that has been ongoing since the magazine's inception, and I welcome comments and suggestions to contribute to this process.

I would like to thank the previous Editors and authors, and the staff of *AI Magazine,* for their exemplary contributions to making the magazine what it is today. I would also like to thank the Publications Committee for selecting me as Editor, and especially to thank the Publications Committee Chair, Kenneth Ford, the previous Editor, Jude Shavlik, and Publishing Consultant Mike Hamilton, for their warm welcome, help, and very valuable guidance as I have embarked on the editorship. I am delighted to begin my term as Editor and look forward to working with the many who contribute to *AI Magazine's* success.

- David Leake
Indiana University
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previous years is the Hall of Champions, although some game demos might be included in the Intelligent Systems Demos. All other programs have retained 1998 levels of participation, and the Student Abstract program grew from 36 submissions in 1998 to 55 in 1999.

IAAI-99 Chairs Ramasamy Uthurusamy and Barbara Hayes-Roth have put together a program of 8 deployed applications and 9 emerging applications. They will coordinate with the AAAI-99 cochairs on their invited speaker slots. Bob Engelmore will take over for Hayes-Roth in 2000 because she is unable to serve more than one year.

Other Business

AAAI Awards
Dave Waltz reported that there would be two new awards presented at the national conference this summer. They include the Distinguished Service Award and the Classic Paper Award.

The Awards Committee was currently seeking nominations, and winners will be notified in late May. Waltz hopes to expand the awards program in his position as past president during the next two years. Following up on previous discussions about a "Popular Writing Award," Edwina Rissland reported that science editors cannot accept awards from nonpublishing panels. Other awards suggested were high school and undergraduate research awards. Waltz reported that Mel Montemerlo had researched award possibilities at the Intel Science and Engineering Fair and had requested as much as $10,000 in funds to establish three awards and bring 3 to 4 AI scientists to Philadelphia in May to judge the entries. This expenditure was approved and later confirmed by e-mail vote. The Council's only stipulation was that AAAI's contribution be recognized in the fair literature. AAAI will notify Botball participants of AAAI's involvement in this program for future years.
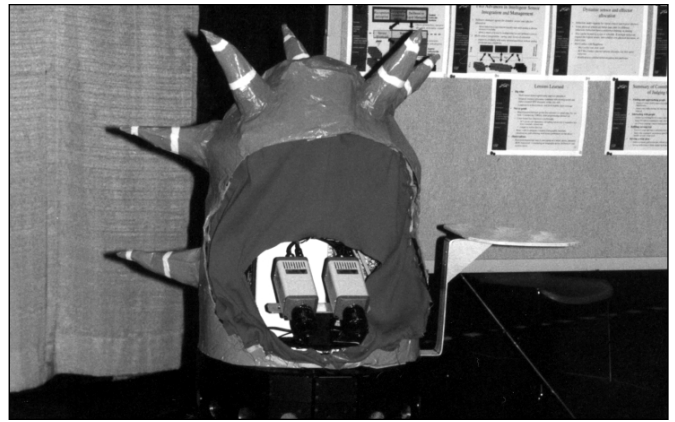
IJCAI-01 Committee
Carol Hamilton reported that the committee will have a kick-off meeting at the end of April in Seattle. The conference facilities and headquarters hotel have been confirmed. The other hotels and student dormitories are also in place. The site for the reception has been selected and the committee will review proposals for the banquet site later this year. The current agreement with IJCAI, Inc., covers AAAI's involvement in this conference through 2001.

CRA
Tim Finin submitted a written report on the Computing Research Association. The CRA Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research (CRAW) has received a $600,000 grant for the continuation of its programs. CRA has hired a new director of government affairs, Lisa Thompson, who replaces Frederic Weingarten. CRA encourages all members of the computing community to mount a vigorous advocacy campaign to build congres-

sional awareness of computing research and its contributions to the national interest. For more information about CRA's programs, policy alerts, and other activities, members should visit the web site at www.cra.org. The CRA Leadership Summit, held in March, featured reports on information technology funding and policy by NSF, DARPA, and DOE representatives. Several participants met with representative Zoe Lofgren after the meeting.

PATHFINDER Site

Bruce Buchanan, who has developed the PATHFINDER web pages on the AAAI web site, is seeking a committee of four to study the continuation of this program. The Executive Council thanked Buchanan for all his work on this project, which is a wonderful tool for the office, researchers, and interested students. Buchanan also reported that he and Raj Reddy are interested in digitizing any video and film related to the field. A proposal will be developed in the coming months.

Future Conference Sites

Carol Hamilton gave an update on the status of the search for sites in 2002-2005. Several smaller or resort-type locales have been eliminated from the list of potential sites because of the lack of available meeting and exhibit space. Of the remaining 12 cities that have space available, the Council chose to concentrate on Toronto, Albuquerque, Honolulu, and Salt Lake City, in that order. In addition, Jonathan Schaeffer and Russ Greiner have put together a very attractive proposal for Edmonton, Alberta, in 2002 (not available on March 21 but considered by e-mail). The Council is willing to consider this alternative as well. Carol Hamilton will be discussing cooperation with the Canadian AI Society in 2002 and possibly other future years.

Collocation for 2000

Several attempts by Council members and staff to attract area conferences to Austin have not been successful. However, there may be one or two conferences in San Antonio, held just before or after AAAI-2000.

AAAI Name Change

Although there has been no negative feedback from either the international organization or the European commu-

Chair of Artificial Intelligence

U.S Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

The U.S. Army War College is seeking an individual to fill a one or two year appointment in the position of Chair of Artificial Intelligence beginning Summer in 2000. Duties include teaching an executive level course in artificial intelligence and assisting in the design and development of tools such as knowledge-based systems, AI-based decision support systems, and defense-related AI research. The position will expose the applicant to simulations of national strategy development, strategic military planning, and extensive exposure to decision making principles at the strategic and national policy levels. A Ph.D. in a technical field such as Computer Science, Engineering, Operations Research, or Educational Technologies is required. Applicantís doctoral research and work experience must include a concentration in Artificial Intelligence. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen eligible for a Top Secret security clearance. Applications must be received no later than December 31, 1999. Applications will be accepted and reviewed under the provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act. Send letter of application (include preferred length of stay), resume, curriculum experience, and the names of three references to:

Director, Center for Strategic Leadership
U.S. Army War College
ATTN: AWCC-CSL-ST
Carlisle, PA 17013-5049
(717) 245-3252 or 3265
Email: keg@csl.carlisle.army.mil

More information can be found at
http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usacsl/org/keg/keg.htm

nity on this idea, the Council decided not to take any formal action on this plan at this time. However, AAAI will continue its commitment to its international members and conference attendees. In addition, AAAI will investigate the feasibility of expanding its conference locales to other North American cities outside the continental United States.

Wheelchair Robots

In response to a request by David Miller, the Council approved a plan for AAAI to host the robotic wheelchair event at a future national conference, assuming Miller can get funding for the development of the wheelchairs from another source.

USC/ISI Robot Video

Sheila Tejada of USC/ISI requested $5000 for the completion of a video she has been working on, which documents 5 robots that appeared in

RoboCup '97. After the Council received recommendation letters from Tejada's department chair and other advisers, this request was approved by e-mail.

NEVOFU Subgroup

A request by Ron Sun and C. Lee Giles to form a AAAI subgroup or special interest group on neural-evolutionary-fuzzy models was not approved. The AAAI subgroup structure is currently under review, and a new program will be launched later this year or in 2000. Subgroup proposals will be reevaluated at that time.

JAIR

The Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research requested a grant to help with administrative costs and a graphic designer. The amount of $5000 was conditionally approved, pending the receipt of tax forms from JAIR.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM..