



AAAI News

*Winter News from the
American Association for
Artificial Intelligence*

AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2003 Fellows Selection Committee is currently accepting nominations for AAAI Fellow. The AAAI Fellows program is designed to recognize people who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence over at least a ten-year period. All regular members in good standing are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. Two references must accompany nominations. The nominator or one of the references must be a AAAI Fellow who is a current member of AAAI. For further information about the Fellows Program or to receive nomination and reference forms, please contact AAAI at 650-328-3123, by fax at 650-321-4457, or by email at fellows@aaai.org. Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.html. The deadline for nominations is February 14, 2002.

This year, because of our cosponsorship of IJCAI-03, AAAI will not be issuing the AAAI Classic Paper Award, the Distinguished Service Award, or the Expository Writing Award.

IJCAI-03

Mark your calendars now for IJCAI-03! The Eighteenth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-03) will be held August 9-15, at the Acapulco Convention Center in Acapulco, Mexico. IJCAI, AAAI, and the Mexican AI Society will cosponsor IJCAI-03. The confer-

ence is being held in cooperation with the Latin American AI communities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Venezuela. There will be no AAAI national conference in 2003.

Several events will be collocated with IJCAI-03, including the following:

- Fifteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-03), August 12-14. www.aaai.org/Conferences/IAAI/2003/iaai03.html
- AAAI/SIGART/IJCAI Doctoral Consortium, August 10-11.
- AAAI Intelligent Systems Demonstrations, August 12-14.
- AAAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, August 12-14.
- Nineteenth Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI-2003), August 7-10. www.research.microsoft.com/UAI2003/

The following are a few important deadlines to note on your calendar:

- January 14: IJCAI-03 Electronic title page, abstract, and paper submission deadline
- January 16: IJCAI-03 Hard-copy paper submission deadline
- January 21: IAAI-03 submission deadline
- February 7: SIGART/AAAI/IJCAI Doctoral Consortium application deadline
- February 10: IJCAI-03 Electronic poster submission deadline
- February 12: IJCAI-03 Hard-copy poster submission deadline
- February 21: IS Demos Proposals deadline
- March 25: IJCAI-03 Notifications to authors
- April 11: Deadline for receipt of

camera-ready copy

Please check the IJCAI-03 web site (www.ijcai-03.org) for further information about the aforementioned programs, as well as announcements about other new features. Information about the conference is also available by writing to ijcai@aaai.org.

IJCAI-03 Workshop Program

The IJCAI-03 workshop program will include approximately twenty-nine workshops. The workshops will be held Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, August 9-11 in Acapulco, Mexico. Please consult the IJCAI-03 web site (www.ijcai-03.org) for more information regarding topic areas, schedules and guidelines for participation. The chair of the IJCAI-03 workshop program is Mary-Anne Williams, University of Newcastle in Australia (maryanne@cafe.newcastle.edu.au)

AAAI-02 Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its student scholar and volunteer programs. The student scholar program provides partial travel support for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the conference program or letters of recommendation from their faculty adviser; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 15, 2003. 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 by e-mail at scholarships@aaai.org, or by writing to 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Telephone: (650) 328-3123.

Student Volunteer Program

The student volunteer program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support IJCAI organizers in Acapulco, Mexico. In 2003, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to student scholars for the volunteer positions. Local students or students not requiring travel assistance can apply for the volunteer program if openings are available. 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 April 15, 2003.

Travel Awards

Separate travel award programs are available for international students through IJCAI and other national societies. For information regarding any of these international programs, please write to Priscilla Rasmussen at rasmusse@ijcai.org.

AAAI/ SIGART/IJCAI Doctoral Consortium

AAAI and ACM/SIGART invite students to apply for the Eighth AAAI/SIGART/IJCAI Doctoral Consortium. The Doctoral Consortium provides an opportunity for a group of Ph.D. students to discuss and explore their research interests and career objectives with a panel of established researchers in AI.

The consortium's objectives are (1) to provide a setting for mutual feedback on participants' current research and guidance on future research directions; (2) to develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research; (3) to support a new generation of researchers with information and advice on academic, research, industrial, and non-traditional career paths; and (4) to contribute to the conference goals through interaction with other researchers and participation in conference events.

The Doctoral Consortium will be held as a workshop on July 28-29,

2002, immediately before the start of the main conference. Application packages are due at the AAAI office by February 7, 2003. The 2003 Doctoral Consortium Chair is Marie desJardins (mariedj@cs.umbc.edu).

2003 AAAI Spring Symposium Series

The 2003 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 24-26 at Stanford University and will feature the following eight symposia:

- Agent-Mediated Knowledge Management
- Computational Synthesis: From Basic Building Blocks to High-Level Functionality
- Foundations and Applications of Spatio-Temporal Reasoning (FAS-TR)
- Human Interaction with Autonomous Systems in Complex Environments
- Intelligent Multimedia Knowledge Management
- Logical Formalization of Commonsense Reasoning
- Natural Language Generation in Spoken and Written Dialogue
- New Directions in Question Answering

Registration materials have already been mailed to all AAAI members and invited participants. Information on the symposia is also available on the AAAI web site. The deadline for registration for invited participants is February 14. The general registration deadline is February 28.

AAAI Membership Fee Increase

AAAI will restructure its fee schedule in 2003 for the first time in nine years. The new fees, effective January 1, 2003, are:

US/Canada	
Regular membership	\$95.00
Full-time student	\$35.00
International	
Regular	\$135.00
Full-time student	\$75.00
Library	
Library US/Canada	\$190.00

Library International \$230.00

Life Memberships

US/Canada \$1,350.00
International \$1,900.00

Current individual memberships include the *AI Magazine*, conference and publication discounts, and online access to the AAAI Digital Library. For further information, please write to membership@aaai.org.

AAAI E-mail Addresses

In an effort to curtail the unprecedented amount of spam and virus attachments that we are receiving, AAAI will be modifying its email addresses. Beginning in 2003, general messages should be sent via the contact form located on the AAAI web site. Members may continue to contact AAAI via e-mail. However, you should add "03" to any of the general e-mail addresses that you use (this change does not apply to individual AAAI staff member e-mail addresses), for example, info03@aaai.org; membership03@aaai.org; press03@aaai.org; orders03@aaai.org; ncai03@aaai.org; iaai03@aaai.org; sss03@aaai.org; workshops03@aaai.org; scholarships03@aaai.org; volunteer03@aaai.org; awards03@aaai.org; fellows03@aaai.org; aimagazine03@aaai.org. The number will be updated on an annual basis.

FSS-2003

We regret to announce that the AAAI Fall Symposium Series has been suspended until such time that the pool of proposals warrants its reinstatement. All symposium proposals should be submitted to the 2004 Spring Symposium Series, tentatively scheduled for March 22-24 at Stanford University. Inquiries regarding the series can be directed to Carol Hamilton at sss@aaai.org.

AI ALERT Newsletter

Many of you have been receiving the AI ALERT electronic newsletter. This new service keeps you informed of what is being written on AI in the press within the past few weeks. If

you would like to receive this newsletter or other periodic AAAI announcements, please write to us at membership03@aaai.org for instructions on how to subscribe to the AAAI members e-mail list. We also welcome your feedback on the newsletter at aitopics@aaai.org. Be sure to visit the AI Topics web site at www.aaai.org/AITopics/aitopics.html.

Member News

AAAI congratulates members Kenneth Ford, Daniel Rus, and Dan Jurafsky on their recent honors.

Kenneth Ford Appointed to National Science Board

We are pleased to announce that AAAI member Kenneth M. Ford has been nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the National Science Board. The National Science Board (NSB) has dual responsibilities as the national science policy advisor to the President and the Congress, and the governing board for the National Science Foundation. The Board is comprised of 24 part-time members, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. They are selected on the basis of their eminence in basic, medical, or social sciences, engineering, agriculture, education, research management, or public affairs. Ford is currently the Director of the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition at the University of West Florida. From 1997 to 1999, he served as Director of the NASA Center of Excellence for Information Technology. Ford is Editor of the AAAI Press, and an AAAI Fellow. His term on the National Science Board will expire on May 10, 2008.

Daniela Ru and Dan Jurafsky Awarded MacArthur Fellowships

Daniela Rus, Associate Professor of Computer Science at Dartmouth College, and Dan Jurafsky, Associate Professor of Linguistics and Computer Science at the University of Colorado, were recently awarded MacArthur Foundation fellowships. The MacArthur Fellows Program



Kenneth Ford Speaking at a recent AAAI conference.

awards unrestricted fellowships to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction. There are three criteria for selection of Fellows: (1) exceptional creativity, (2) promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishment, and (3) potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work. The Foundation does not require or expect specific products or reports from MacArthur Fellows, and does not evaluate recipients' creativity during the term of the fellowship. The MacArthur Fellowship is a "no strings attached" award in support of people, not projects. Each fellowship comes with a stipend of \$500,000 to the recipient, paid out in equal quarterly installments over five years.

AAAI Executive Council Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council met on July 28, 2002, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the Sheraton Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Attending: Tom Mitchell, Ron

Brachman, Bruce Buchanan, Carla Gomes, Marie desJardins, Rich Doyle, Tim Finin, Kenneth Ford, Barbara Grosz, Craig Knoblock, John McCarthy, Deborah McGuinness, Norm Nielsen, Peter Norvig, Bart Selman, Reid Simmons, Dave Waltz, Carol Hamilton, and Mike Hamilton

Tom Mitchell, AAAI President, welcomed new councilors—Carla Gomes, Michael Littman, Maja Mataric, and Yoav Shoham—to the Council. He also thanked Deborah McGuinness, Bart Selman, Reid Simmons, and Manuela Veloso for all their efforts over the past three years. Several retiring councilors will remain on the Executive Council as committee chairs.

Standing Committee Reports

The standing committee chairs or their designees delivered reports of their activities, as follows.

Finance

Secretary-Treasurer Norm Nielsen reported that the downturn in the economy has taken its toll on the AAAI operating reserve. AAAI uses the operating reserve to fund its grant program and to subsidize many of its programs. It has been able to keep its reg-

istration and membership rates very low during the past five years. However, the size of the current operating reserve will no longer support the same level of activity, and Nielsen recommended that some budget cuts be considered at this time. Further discussion was held later in the meeting.

Fellows/Awards

Past President and Fellows Committee Chair Bruce Buchanan announced that the committee had selected eight new fellows in 2003. They were honored at a dinner in Edmonton. Buchanan encouraged councilors to nominate members for fellowship, and to encourage others to do so. He also announced that the Distinguished Service Award was being given to Raj Reddy of Carnegie Mellon University, and the Classic Paper award was going to John Canny for his paper, "A Variational Approach to Edge Detection," which was presented in 1983 at the Third National Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Washington, DC. Although no award for best expository writing was presented this year, there may be an award given slightly later in the year. No awards will be given in 2003 because IJCAI will be held in North America, so no national conference will be held.

Membership

Membership Committee Chair Reid Simmons reported that membership levels had remained steady during the past year, although there had been a slight shift in the composition of the membership, with more students and less libraries. Retention of members remains a significant issue. There was some discussion about how to involve students in the association through the AI Topics web site or student chapters. Data regarding the length of memberships and student memberships will be presented at the next meeting.

Publications

Publications Committee Chair David Leake reported that AAAI has produced a CD-ROM of the *AI Magazine* archive from 1980-2001. He also announced that Michael Wellman has agreed to serve as the new *AI Magazine* Book Review Editor. Leake thanked B. Chandrasekaran, who has

served in this capacity for several years. Leake noted that the postage rates for *AI Magazine* had risen about 5% in the past year and had more than doubled since 1994. AAAI Press Editor-in-Chief Kenneth Ford noted that sales for all scholarly publications have slumped in the past year. Even with three new titles, sales for AAAI Press have remained level with 2001. The scanning project of all technical reports is continuing, with scheduled completion later this year. AAAI Press is gradually expanding its list of "out-of-print classics," and placing them on the web site for access by AAAI members. The latest contribution to this project is the MYCIN book. Ford noted that this was the first year that the AAAI proceedings was produced directly from electronic files, which enabled the use of a uniform font family. The proceedings was printed directly to plate, with no intermediate film stage, and was printed on 80% recycled paper. The result is a higher-quality volume. Ford encouraged Council members to recommend good book proposals, as well as interesting articles for the magazine.

Conference

Carol Hamilton reported that a survey was circulated to gather feedback on the AAAI-02 conference format experiment of one plenary session, accompanied by evening poster sessions. Results will be sent to the current and future chairs, who will use this information to determine the format for AAAI-04. Invitations had been issued for the AAAI-04 program co-chairs, and final appointments will be made in the fall.

AAAI-02 preregistration figures indicated a twelve percent drop in attendance from 2000. However, Hamilton reported that most associations reported 20-25% declines during the same period, due to the economy and post-September 11 restrictions on travel. In addition to the technical program, other programs included the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference, the AAAI Robot Competition and Exhibition, 12 tutorials, 18 workshops, the Student Abstract Program, the Doctoral Consortium, the Robot

Building Lab, and highlights of the National Botball tournament.

A general discussion about the new conference format and possible future formats followed. The importance of attracting students and young researchers to the conference was stressed. Some suggestions included a federated conference of AAAI and other area conferences, birds-of-a-feather sessions, and collocation with some interleaving of schedules.

Grants

Carol Hamilton reported that \$478,741 in grants had been disbursed or allocated for 2003. This included \$58,150 in workshop and conference grants; \$20,000 in women & minority grants; \$94,746 in national conference and symposium student scholarships; \$39,500 in special awards; \$195,640 in AAAI membership and conference programs; \$60,000 for Botball support; and \$10,705 in miscellaneous grants.

A detailed discussion followed about how to reduce grant expenditures during the next year. The following recommendations were made: (1) The Grants Committee should consider seeking outside grants for AAAI. A list of foundations that provide these types of grants should be developed. (2) The Fellows dinner will continue to be complimentary for new fellows and their guests, but returning fellows will pay \$50.00 for themselves and their guests. (3) Except in unusual circumstances, AAAI conference and workshop grants will be provided for relevant events for one year only, preferably in their first year of operation. Some preference will be given to conferences located in the continental United States. (4) Additional sponsors should be secured for the Intelligent Systems Demos and the Robot Competition to help defray operational costs. In addition, modest participation fees for the Robot Competition and Exhibition will be instituted in 2003. (5) A review of the Allen Newell Award will be made. (6) Statistics for *AI Journal* online access by AAAI members during the past two years should be gathered and reviewed before renewing this program for 2003.

Symposium

Carol Hamilton reported that the Spring Symposium Series, held at Stanford University, had 273 attendees for 9 symposia—down 20% from 2001. This was somewhat unexpected because of the increased number of symposia, but in line with decreases in attendance at other conferences in the US. The 2003 program has been selected and includes 8 symposia. The 2002 Fall Symposium will be held on Cape Cod, with 5 symposia. The subject of disbanding the Fall Symposium was raised once again. In addition, the Symposium Committee had contacted Hamilton to recommend this action. It has continued to be very difficult to attract proposals for this event. The Council recommended that the Fall Symposium be suspended, pending consultations with the Committee members and with select AAAI members in the New England region. Marie desJardins volunteered to serve as the Symposium Committee Associate Chair, replacing David Poole.

Old Business

CRA Report

Tim Finin, the AAAI Liaison to the Computing Research Association, reported that CRA Executive Director Bill Aspray has taken a position at Indiana University. He has been replaced by Andrew Bernat, who was a founding member of the computer science department at the University of Texas El Paso, and is a past recipient of the A. Nico Haberman Award. Two members of the AI community, Kathleen McKeown, Columbia University, and Richard Waters, Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs, were elected to the CRA Board of Directors. Other AI members include Barbara Grosz, David Waltz, Bill Woods, and Tim Finin. CRA recently held a small conference entitled "Grand Research Challenges" in Computer Science and Engineering, and similar workshops will be held in the future.

AI Topics

Bruce Buchanan circulated some sample pages from the AI Topics web site, and encouraged Council members to provide feedback about the site. Buchanan was investigating alternate

funding sources to support this ongoing project, possibly through the NSF Digital Library project, or corporate sponsorship. Currently, AAAI underwrites this activity. Buchanan noted that the *AI Alerts* are going out on a regular basis, and that AAAI has received much positive feedback about it. In addition, he is studying ways to alert high school teachers about this great resource.

Botball

Ron Brachman reported that the Botball National Tournament was held independently of AAAI this year in Oklahoma. AAAI provided a grant of \$50,000 to support student travel to this event. In addition, AAAI provided an additional \$7,000–10,000 to host the winners in Edmonton. A demonstration and exhibition was held at the AAAI-02 Exhibition. Botball is interested in developing a long-term partnership with AAAI. The Council asked for a volunteer to consult with Botball organizers about their long-term goals and plans to become self-sustaining. Rich Doyle volunteered to investigate, and report back to the Council. The Council also discussed the importance of supporting competitions in areas other than robotics, possibly collocated with the national conference or held on the AAAI web site. Development of an AP course in AI was also suggested.

Intel Science and Engineering Awards
Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI presented 15 awards of \$1,000 each to 16 students (one team) at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2002 (ISEF-2002), held May 12–18 in Louisville, Kentucky. These awards are given for the best projects in computer science with an AI component. AAAI sent four judges, including David Atkinson (head judge), David Kortenkamp, Carla Gomes, and Sven Koenig. The Council thanked Reid Simmons (chair) and all the judges for their time and effort on this project. The number and size of the awards are considerably higher than what other associations in the same category present. Therefore, the Council voted to reduce the number of awards to twelve, and to lower the individual dollar amount to \$500 each.

Looking for a New Position?

Please Visit AAAI's New Employment Opportunities Page!

<http://www.aaai.org/Magazine/Jobs/>

AAAI Site Selection

Carol Hamilton reported that the search for 2004 sites continues, with possible venues in Boston, San Francisco, and Hawaii. The Council voted to eliminate Hawaii for the present time because of the difficulty many people had in securing funding to attend the conference in Canada. For many, Hawaii is considered foreign travel. Hamilton explained that San Francisco continues to be a very difficult city to reserve because of our size. The Council recommended that other Bay Area and California locations be investigated, including San Diego and San Jose.

New Business

IJCAI-03

Carol Hamilton reported that the IJCAI-03 Conference Committee is seeking sponsors at all levels for the conference next year in Mexico. As a cosponsor of the event, it is in the best interests of AAAI to encourage as much sponsorship as possible so that the conference remains self-sustaining. Inquiries regarding sponsorship should be referred to Hamilton or to the IJCAI-03 Conference Committee.

AAAI Membership Fees

Carol Hamilton reported that the membership fees had not been increased in eight years. During that



time, AAAI has expanded its services widely, including, for example, the main AAAI web site, the AI Topics web site, and *AI Journal* online access. In addition, postage and other operational costs have increased substantially during this period. After a lengthy discussion, a recommendation was made and passed to increase the membership fees to \$95 (regular US/Canada); \$35 (full-time US/Canadian student); \$135 (regular international); \$75 (full-time international student); \$190 (US or Canadian library); \$230 (international library); \$1,350 (US or Canadian life member); and \$1,900 (international life member). These rates will go into effect January 1, 2003.

Student Chapters

Carol Hamilton reported that some interest had been shown in forming student chapters on campuses. This type of chapter does not fall under the guidelines recently approved by the Council for the formation of AAAI Chapters. The Council was in favor of the guidelines being expanded to include such chapters.

AAAI Goals

Tom Mitchell asked the Council members to take a moment to provide feedback about AAAI priorities during the coming years. Comments generally fell in the following areas: (1) disseminate scientific information through conferences and publications; (2) educate the public through

the dissemination of information about AI to the public; (3) encourage future researchers through outreach to high schools and science awards; (4) encourage cross-fertilization between areas of research and discourage fragmentation in the field through conference collocation and local chapters; (5) encourage the dissemination of scientific research through journal sponsorship; (6) maintain a list of grand challenges for AI; (7) continue to serve as a primary resource for information about AI through online demos, archives, success stories, and tools repository.