AAAI News

Spring News from the
American Association for Artificial Intelligence

AAAI-06 / IAAI-06: A Landmark Event!

We hope you are planning to join us for AAAI-06 and IAAI-06 in Boston Massachusetts, July 16–20, 2006. The response has been overwhelming, as AAAI celebrates 50 years of AI in the United States. A host of new programs will be showcased at the conference, including special tracks on AI and the Web and Integrated Intelligent Capabilities, Senior Member Papers, Nectar Papers, Member Abstracts and Posters, and a Poker Competition. A record 361 papers and abstracts will be presented at AAAI-06 and IAAI-06, and eight outstanding invited talks will be presented by Tim Berners-Lee, Bruce Buchanan, Sebastian Thrun, Pedro Domingos, Neil Jacobstein, Ken Koedinger, Karen Myers, and Dan Roth. For more details about the conference, please see Sara Hedberg's article elsewhere in this issue.

AAAI Returns to Canada in 2007!

Please mark your calendars now for the Twenty-Second Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-07) and the Nineteenth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-07)! The conferences will be held July 22–26, at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver in Vancouver, Canada. The AAAI-07 program cochairs are Adele Howe (Colorado State University), and Robert Holte (University of Alberta). The IAAI-07 conference chair is William Cheetham (General Electric Research).

The calls for papers for both conferences, as well as tutorial proposals, workshop proposals, student abstracts, intelligent systems demonstrations, and the robot competition will be posted on the AAAI web site in July (www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai07.php, and www.aaai.org/Conferences/IAAI/iaai07.php). For more information about AAAI-07 and IAAI-07, please see the web site or write to aaai07@aaai.org.

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence will be held at 12:45 PM, Monday, July 17, 2006 in the Seaport World Trade Center Complex in Boston, Massachusetts.

Executive Council Nominations

Every two years, the AAAI membership elects an individual to serve a two-year term as president-elect, followed by two years as president, and, finally, two years as immediate past president. In addition, every year four new councilors are elected to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate one candidate for president-elect and eight candidates for councilor in the spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI members will vote in the late spring of 2007.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 445 Burgess Drive, Suite 100, Menlo Park, CA 94025; by fax to 650-321-4457; or by 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, 2006.

AAAI 2006 Fall Symposium Series

The 2006 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, October 13–15, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Washington, DC. The titles of the eight symposia are as follows:

- Aurally Informed Performance: Integrating Machine Listening and Auditory Presentation in Robotic Systems. *Cochairs:* Derek Brock, Naval Research Laboratory (derek.brock@nrl.navy.mil); Ramani Duraiswami, University of Maryland (ramani@umiacs.umd.edu); Alexander I. Rudnicky, Carnegie Mellon University (alex.rudnicky@cs.cmu.edu)
- Capturing and Using Patterns for Evidence Detection. *Cochairs:* Ken Murray, SRI International (murray@ai.sri.com); Ian Harrison, SRI International (harrison@ai.sri.com)
- Developmental Systems. *Cochairs:* Sanjeev Kumar, Cornell University (sk525@cornell.edu); Gregory S. Hornby, NASA Ames Research Center (hornby@e-mail.arc.nasa.gov); Joshua Bongard, Cornell University (josh.bongard@cornell.edu)
- Image Comprehension. *Cochairs:* Walt Truszkowski, NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center (walt.truszkowski@nasa.gov); Jacqueline Le Moigne, NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center; Bir Bhanu, University of California, Riverside
- Integrating Logical Reasoning into Everyday Applications. *Chair:* Michael Kassoff, Stanford University (mkassoff@stanford.edu)
- Interaction and Emergence in Soci-

Congratulations to the
2006 AAAI Fellows!

Each year a small number of fellows are recognized for their unusual distinction in the profession and for their sustained contributions to the field for a decade or more. An official dinner and ceremony will be held in their honor during the AAAI Fellows Symposium just prior to AAAI-06 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Fahiem Bacchus
(University of Toronto)

For significant contributions in knowledge representation, automated planning, utility modeling, and algorithms for SAT and constraint satisfaction.

Craig Boutilier
(University of Toronto)

For significant contributions to default reasoning, belief revision, and decision-theoretic foundations of AI.

Anthony G. Cohn
(University of Leeds)

For significant contributions to knowledge representation, qualitative spatial reasoning, cognitive vision, and service to the international AI community.

Gregory F. Cooper
(University of Pittsburgh)

For significant contributions to the theory and applications of Bayesian reasoning and causal modeling, and the promotion of artificial intelligence within medicine.

Jude W. Shavlik
(University of Wisconsin)

For significant contributions to machine learning, especially knowledge-intensive approaches, and the application of machine learning to problems in computational biology.

Oliviero Stock
(ITC-IRST)

For wide-ranging, significant contributions to research in computational linguistics and intelligent interfaces, serious work on computational humor, and dedicated service and leadership in support of the European AI community.

Sebastian Thrun
(Stanford University)

For significant contributions to the theory of probabilistic robot navigation and its successful real-world application.

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eties of Agents. *Cochairs:* Goran Trajkovski, Towson University (gtrajkovski@towson.edu); Samuel Collins, Towson University

- Semantic Web for Collaborative Knowledge Acquisition. *Chair:* Vasant Honavar, Iowa State University (honavar@cs.iastate.edu). Cochair: Tim Finin, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

- Spacecraft Autonomy: Using AI to Expand Human Space Exploration. *Cochairs:* Ari Jonsson, NASA Ames Research Center/USRA; David Ko-

rtenkamp, NASA Johnson Space Center/Metrica Inc. (korten@tra-clabs.com)

Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants each. 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. Complete registration and hotel information will be available in July at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss06. php. Invited partici-

pants must register by September 1, and the final registration deadline is September 22. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Hyatt Regency is September 20, 2006. The discounted single room rate of $150.00 per night ($175.00/double) may not be available after this date. Please call the Hyatt Regency at 800-233-1234 or 703-418-1234 for reservations, and be sure to identify yourself as an attendee at the American Association for Artificial Intelligence Fall Symposium Series.

AAAI has a New Website!

AAAI launched a new website earlier this year, and we are pleased to announce some new features for members in this new system. First of all, please take a moment to create your new account by taking the following steps:

1. Go to www.aaai.org and click on "members log-in."
2. Select "Not registered? Sign up now" in the upper right-hand corner.
3. Fill in the requested information.
4. You will be sent a message with the subject line: [AAAI] Registration Successful. Before you can use the activation code in this message, AAAI must authorize your account. Please allow one business day for this to occur. No authorizations can be made over the weekend.

Once your account has been authorized, you can activate it, using the code sent in the message described in 4).

A password will be sent to you immediately, and you can then log on to the members only site. You will be able to change your password to one of your own choosing.

Please note that AAAI log-ins and passwords issued prior to January of 2006 are no longer active, so all current AAAI members will need to create new accounts in order to access the AAAI Members Only site. The Members Only site includes convenient links to the AAAI Digital Library, *AI Journal Access,* and announcements about other member benefits.

AAAI 2007 Spring Symposium Series

The 2007 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 26–28, 2007 at Stanford University. The Call for Participation will be available in July on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss07.php). Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 6, 2006. For more information, please contact Symposium Chair, Alan Schultz, at schultz@aic.nrl.navy.mil or AAAI at sss07@aaai.org.

AI Alert Newsletter

In response to your requests, the AI Alert is now published in two formats — one with full-text descriptions of the articles and one with URLs only. To receive this semimonthly listing of articles featuring AI, join our AAAI membership mailing list by subscribing at www.aaai.org/cgi-dada/mail.cgi. You will also receive periodic announcements about upcoming AAAI events and deadlines. Be sure to visit the AI Topics web site at www.aaai.org/AITopics/html/welcome.htm.

ACM / AAAI Allen Newell Award

AAAI is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2005 ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award. The award is presented annually to an individual(s) whose career contributions display breadth within computer science, or bridge computer science and other disciplines. This year, Jack Minker, professor emeritus of the University of Maryland, is being honored for his fundamental contributions to the fields of deductive databases, logic programming, artificial intelligence, and, more generally, logic-based methods in computer science and for his truly unprecedented role in organizing and stimulating scientific discourse. Professor Minker is a Fellow of AAAI. The award, which is jointly sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and AAAI, comes with a cash prize of $10,000.

AAAI Fellows Win ACM Software Systems Award

Two AAAI Fellows, Robert Boyer and J Strother Moore, both of the University of Texas at Austin, have won the ACM Software Systems award, along with their colleague, Matt Kaufmann. They were honored for pioneering and engineering a most effective theorem prover (named the Boyer-Moore Theorem Prover) as a formal methods tool for verifying safety-critical hardware and software. The Software System award is given to an institution or individual(s) recognized for developing software systems that have had a lasting influence, reflected in contributions to concepts and/or commercial acceptance. This award carries a $10,000 prize, and financial support for the award is provided by IBM.

Robert S. Boyer is a professor in the computer sciences, mathematics, and philosophy departments at the University of Texas at Austin. He was a senior computing research scientist at Computational Logic, Inc, and a senior member of technical staff at Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp. He also was a research mathematician and staff scientist at SRI International. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in 1967, and he earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from UT Austin in 1971.

J Strother Moore holds the Admiral B.R. Inman Centennial Chair in Computing Theory at the University of Texas at Austin, and is chair of the Department of Computer Sciences. He was a founder and chief scientist at Computational Logic, Inc. and served as its chief scientist for ten years. He was also a research mathematician at Xerox PARC and a staff scientist at SRI International. He earned an S.B. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1970, and a Ph.D. in computational logic from the University of Edinburgh in 1973.

Mitchell to Head New Machine Learning Department at Carnegie Mellon

Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science (SCS) is extending its leadership in the burgeoning field of machine learning by creating the nation's first Machine Learning Department. The new department designation for what was formerly known

as the Center for Automated Learning and Discovery (CALD) reflects the importance of machine learning in such growing areas as data mining and sensor networks, as well as a commitment by the university to continue its pioneering efforts in the field.

AAAI Fellow and former president Tom M. Mitchell, the Fredkin Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Learning, heads the department, one of six within SCS. Mitchell founded CALD in 1997 together with Stephen E. Fienberg, the Maurice Falk University Professor of Statistics and Social Science. The new department is the first to offer a Ph.D. in the field of machine learning. There are currently 21 students in the program, which was established in 2003.

Veloso Named CMU Herbert A. Simon Professor of Computer Science

AAAI Fellow Manuela Veloso has been named the Herbert A. Simon Professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. The chaired professorship is named after the late Herbert A. Simon, university professor and Nobel Laureate who helped to found the field of artificial intelligence and establish Carnegie Mellon as one of the foremost computer science institutions in the world. Veloso's research focuses on the effective construction of teams of intelligent agents that combine cognition, perception, and action to address planning, execution and learning tasks—particularly in uncertain, dynamic, and adversarial environments. To illustrate these concepts, Veloso develops teams of robot soccer agents that participate in the International RoboCup competitions. Veloso is vice president of the RoboCup Federation, and was general chair of the international RoboCup 2001 in Seattle. She helped to create and served as general chair of the first RoboCup American Open at Carnegie Mellon in 2003. Veloso is an alumna of Carnegie Mellon, where she received her doctorate in computer science in 1992. She earned her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering from the Insti-

tuto Superior TÈcnico in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1980 and 1984, respectively.

In Memoriam

We regretfully report the loss of two longtime AAAI members this past February: Push Singh of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Jim Schmolze of Tufts University. Singh earned his MEng in 1998 and Ph.D. in 2005 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both in electrical engineering and computer science. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the time of his death, and had accepted a faculty appointment beginning September 2007. Push worked closely with Marvin Minsky and others in the MIT Media Lab to pioneer humanlike common sense for computers. He was recently named one of the IEEE Intelligent Systems 10 to Watch.

Jim Schmolze was an associate professor of computer science at Tufts and his specialty was artificial intelligence. He was the department chair of electrical engineering and computer science from 2000–2002. He received his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York, Buffalo and his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. A long-time member of the First Unitarian Society in Newton, Massachusetts, he served on its board of trustees and was actively involved with youth programs particularly in relation to social justice work.

Raj Reddy Receives the Vannevar Bush Award

The National Science Board has named Raj Reddy of Carnegie Mellon University as one two recipients of the prestigious 2006 Vannevar Bush Award for his lifetime contributions to science and long-standing statesmanship in science on behalf of the nation. Reddy was honored at a dinner at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. on May 9. Raj Reddy is considered a national leader in transforming computer science from a disparate group of academic disciplines into an integrated field, built upon his seminal work in human-computer interaction, artificial intelligence, speech technologies, robotics and other integrated computing innovations. His work has helped the United States lead in a range of computer science developments. Reddy cochaired the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC) in the late 1990s, laying the groundwork for a national policy to significantly increase federal investments in information technology research. Reddy founded the nation's first robotics laboratory at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), which recognized the interrelationships between artificial intelligence and robotics and allowed discoveries leading to some of the nation's most important new technologies. Reddy received the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Turing Award in 1994 for major and lasting contributions to the computer field. He is a past president and founding Fellow of AAAI.

The Science Board is a 24-member body of policy advisors to the President and Congress on matters of science and engineering research, and is the policy making and oversight body for the National Science Foundation. The board established the Vannevar Bush Award in 1980 to honor his unique contributions to public service. Bush was a prominent science adviser to the president and wrote the highly acclaimed report, "Science: The Endless Frontier," that steered government science policy beyond World War II into a more modern era and made the case for establishing what became the National Science Foundation.