

AAAI News

*Winter News from the
American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

AAAI / IAAI Return to Canada in 2007!

Mark your calendars now for AAAI-07, which will be the second AAAI conference to be held in Canada. You will note a slight name change in the conference to account for this trend! We are delighted to announce this permanent change as we expand the venue for the conference throughout the whole of North America.

The Twenty-Second AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-07) will be held July 22–26, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in cooperation with the Canadian Society for the Computational Studies of Intelligence (CSCSI/CSEIO) and the University of British Columbia. The Nineteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence will be collocated with AAAI-07, and will be held July 24–26 (for details see the links at www.aaai.org/Conferences/).

In 2006, the AAAI-06 technical program was expanded to include several new programs. AAAI-07 program co-chairs Robert C. Holte (University of Alberta) and Adele Howe (Colorado State University) will continue the success of these programs, which are noted below, as well as all the traditional features of the main technical track, and other conference programs.

Artificial Intelligence and the Web Special Technical Track

The Artificial Intelligence and the Web special track invites research papers on AI techniques, systems and concepts involving or applied to the web. Papers should either describe web related

research or clearly explain how the work addresses problems, opportunities or issues underlying the web or web-based systems.

Special Technical Track on Integrated Intelligent

Papers submitted to the II track should highlight synergistic effects of integrating components from distinct areas of AI to achieve intelligent behavior. They should articulate the innovative mechanisms used to combine multiple components and should demonstrate the synergy achieved through this integration.

Senior Member Papers

The senior member presentation track provides an opportunity for established researchers to give a broad talk on a well-developed body of research, an important new research area, or a thoughtful critique of trends in the field.

AAAI Nectar Papers

The Nectar (new scientific and technical advances in research) track invites papers that are based on important results already published in the proceedings of at least one major specialized conference in 2005 and 2006, as either a single paper or a series of papers. This program aims to offer young researchers the opportunity to learn about areas with which they may not already be familiar, as well as encourage the sort of cross-disciplinary AI work that has historically been supported by AAAI.

AAAI-07 will also include all of these ongoing programs:

- AAAI-07 Workshop Program
- AAAI-07 Tutorial Forum

- AAAI-07 Student Abstract and Poster Program
- Twelfth AAAI / SIGART Doctoral Consortium
- AAAI Intelligent Systems Demonstrations
- AAAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition
- AAAI General Game Playing Competition
- AAAI Poker Competition

Collocated Events

AAAI is delighted to announce the collocation of the following events:

- 23rd Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI 2007) July 19–22, 2007 (www.auai.org)
- 2007 Trading Agent Competition (TAC) July 23–25, 2007 (www.sics.se/tac)

For a complete list of deadlines, program information, and to check for further updates, please visit the AAAI-07 web site (www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai07.php). Registration materials will be posted in early March or before. Please send e-mail inquiries to aaai07@aaai.org.

AAAI-07 Workshop Program

The AAAI-07 workshops will be held Sunday and Monday, July 22–23, in Vancouver, BC, Canada. The co-chairs of the AAAI-07 workshop program are Simon Parsons (Brooklyn College, City University of New York) and Robert Givan (Purdue University) (aaai07-workshops@ecn.purdue.edu). A preliminary list of workshops that have been accepted into the program is included below. For complete information about schedules and guidelines for participation, please see www.aaai.org/Workshops/ws07.php.

- W1. Acquiring Planning Knowledge via Demonstration. *Contact:* Jim Hendler (University of Maryland) (hendler@cs.umd.edu)
- W2. Configuration. *Contact:* Barry O'Sullivan (University College Cork) (b.osullivan@cs.ucc.ie)
- W3. Evaluating Architectures for Intelligence. *Contact:* Gal Kaminka, (Bar Ilan University) (galk@cs.biu.ac.il)
- W4. Evaluation Methods for Machine Learning II. *Contact:* William Elazmeh (University of Ottawa) (welazmeh@site.uottawa.ca)

- W5. Explanation-Aware Computing. *Contact:* Thomas Roth-Berghofer (TU Kaiserslautern) (trb@dfki.uni-kl.de), Stefan Schulz (The e-Spirit Company GmbH) (schulz@e-spirit.de), David B. Leake (Indiana University) (leake@cs.indiana.edu), Daniel Bahls (DFKI GmbH) (bahls@dfki.uni-kl.de)
- W6. Human Implications of Human-Robot Interaction. *Contact:* Ted Metzler (Oklahoma City University) (tmetzler@okcu.edu)
- W7. Intelligent Techniques for Web Personalization. *Contact:* Sarabjot Singh Anand (University of Warwick) (s.s.anand@warwick.ac.uk)
- W8. Mobile Robot Workshop. *Contact:* Jeffrey Forbes (Duke University) (forbes@cs.duke.edu)
- W9. Plan, Activity, and Intent Recognition. *Contact:* Christopher Geib (University of Edinburgh) (cgeib@inf.ed.ac.uk) and David Pynadath (USC/ISI) (pynadath@isi.edu)
- W10. Preference Handling for Artificial Intelligence. *Contact:* Ulrich Junker (ILOH) (ujunker@ilog.fr), Jon Doyle (North Carolina State University) (Jon_Doyle@ncsu.edu), Judy Goldsmith (University of Kentucky) (goldsmith@cs.uky.edu), Jerome Lang (IRIT) (lang@irit.fr)
- W11. Recommender Systems. *Contact:* Dietmar Jannach, University of Klagenfurt, Austria (dietmar.jannach@uni-klu.ac.at), Gediminas Adomavicius, University of Minnesota, Robin Burke, DePaul University, Joseph A. Konstan, University of Minnesota, Francesco Ricci, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, Alexander Tuzhilin, Stern School of Business, New York University
- W12. Semantic e-Science. *Contact:* Huajun Chen (Yale / Zhejiang Universities) (huajunsir@gmail.com), Yimin Wang (University of Karlsruhe), Kei Cheung (Yale University), and Rudi Studer (University of Karlsruhe).
- W13. Spatial and Temporal Reasoning. *Contact:* Hans W. Guesgen (University of Auckland) (hans@cs.auckland.ac.nz), Gerard Ligozat, (Universite Paris-Sud) (ligozat@limsi.fr), Jochen Renz (Australian National University) (jochen.renz@anu.edu.au) and Rita V. Rodriguez (NSF) (rrodrigu@nsf.gov)

Mark Your Calendar with These Important Deadlines!

January 22	AIIDE-07 papers due
January 23	IAAI-07 electronic papers due
January 25	AAAI-07 student abstracts due
February 1	AAAI-07 electronic technical and special track abstracts due
February 2	AAAI-07 doctoral consortium applications due
February 6	AAAI-07 technical paper and special track papers due
February 27	AAAI-07 senior member and nectar papers due
April 3	AAAI-07 intelligent system demos proposals due
April 24	AAAI-07 technical/senior member/nectar final papers due
May 15	AAAI-07 robot competition registrations due

- W14. Trading Agent Design and Analysis. *Contact:* Michael Wellman (University of Michigan) (wellman@umich.edu)

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 advisor; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 30, 2007. 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 scholarships07@aaai.org, or 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025 USA. 1-650-328-3123.

The student volunteer program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable

contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in Vancouver, BC, Canada. In 2007, 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 volunteer07@aaai.org. The deadline for volunteer applications is April 30, 2007.

Third Annual Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-07)

AIIDE-07 will be held June 6–8, 2007 at Stanford University in Stanford, California. AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. Sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), the conference is targeted at both the research and commercial communities, promoting AI research and practice in the context of interactive digital entertainment systems with an emphasis on commercial computer and video

AAAI E-mail Addresses

To reduce our spam, AAAI will be modifying its e-mail addresses in 2007 by adding 07 to all e-mail addresses, as follows:

aaai07
 aimagazine07
 aitopics07
 fss07
 info07
 membership07
 press07
 orders07
 iaai07
 sss07
 workshops07
 scholarships07
 volunteer07
 awards07
 fellows07

E-mail addresses will be updated on an annual basis. AAAI can also be reached by filling out the contact form, accessible from www.aaai.org/Forms/contact-form.php

games. AIIDE-07 will include invited speaker sessions, paper presentation sessions, demonstration sessions and exhibits. We invite researchers and developers to share insights and cutting-edge results from a wide range of AI-related problems. AIIDE-07 conference program chair Michael Mateas (University of California, Santa Cruz) is pleased to announce the introduction of two distinct paper tracks in 2007, the research Track and the published games track. Papers in the research track will focus on results from core AI research areas applicable to interactive digital entertainment, while papers in the published games track will focus on AI approaches developed and fielded in published commercial games. Technical papers are due January 22, 2007. Please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/AIIDE/aiide07.php or www.aiide.org for more information.

2007 Fall Symposium Series

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of the Fall Symposium Series! FSS-07 will be held in Arlington, Virginia just outside of Washington,

DC November 8–11, 2007. The program will feature approximately eight symposia, as well as a special program related to AI funding. For more information about the accepted symposia, please see www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss07.php. Submissions will be due May 1, 2007.

2007 Spring Symposium Series

The 2007 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 26-28 at Stanford University and will feature nine symposia on the following subjects:

- Control Mechanisms for Spatial Knowledge Processing in Cognitive / Intelligent Systems. Holger Schultheis (schulth@informatik.uni-bremen.de)
- Game Theoretic and Decision Theoretic Agents. Piotr Gmytrasiewicz (piotr@cs.uic.edu)
- Intentions in Intelligent Systems. George Ferguson (ferguson@cs.rochester.edu)
- Interaction Challenges for Artificial Assistants. Neil Yorke-Smith (ny-smith@ai.sri.com)
- Logical Formalizations of Commonsense Reasoning. Vladimir Lifschitz (vl@cs.utexas.edu)
- Machine Reading. Oren Etzioni (etzioni@cs.washington.edu)
- Multidisciplinary Collaboration for Socially Assistive Robotics. Marek Michalowski (michalowski@cmu.edu) and Adriana Tapus (tapus@robotics.usc.edu)
- Quantum Interaction. William Lawless (lawlessw@mail.paine.edu)
- Robots and Robot Venues: Resources for AI Education. Zachary Dodds (dodds@cs.hmc.edu)

Registration information is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss07.php. Please note that the deadline for registration for invited participants is February 9 and the general registration deadline is March 2.

AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2007 fellows selection committee is currently accepting nominations for AAAI Fellow. The AAAI fellows pro-

gram 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 e-mail at fellows07@aaai.org. Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2007.

2007 Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its two special awards in 2006, and is currently seeking nominations for the 2007 AAAI Classic Paper Award and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award. The 2007 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Seventh National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1988 in St. Paul, Minnesota. The 2007 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-07 in Vancouver, Canada. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.php. The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2007. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

Member News

AAAI Member Randall W. Hill Jr. has been chosen to lead the Institute for Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California. Hill has worked at USC for the past 11 years, first as a project leader at the Information Sciences Institute, and later as the director of applied research and transition at ICT. In this position, one of his goals has been to forge ties between

the entertainment industry and technology developers to create more engaging learning environments. Prior to joining ICT, Hill spent 11 years at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, conducting applied research in artificial intelligence to support military intelligence analysis. He also managed the research program to automate the monitor-and-control system for the Deep Space Network. Hill holds a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Southern California and a bachelor of science degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

AAAI Executive Council Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council Meeting was held at the Seaport Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts on July 17, 2006.

Attending: Alan Mackworth, David Aha, Ron Brachman, Steve Chien, Oren Etzioni, Lise Getoor, Yolanda Gil, Maria Gini, Eric Horvitz, Andrew Moore, David Musliner, Karen Myers, Peter Stone, Holly Yanco, Tony Cohn, Tim Finin, Jim Hendler, David Leake, Ted Senator, Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton.

Not attending: Haym Hirsh, Kevin Knight, Illah Nourbakhsh, Michael Pazzani, Sebastian Thrun.

AAAI President Alan Mackworth opened the meeting at 9:05 AM, welcomed the newly elected councilors in attendance, and reviewed the new structure for the AAAI annual business meeting and terms of the executive council members. The annual meeting was moved from the last day of the conference to the lunch break of the executive council meeting. The installation of new officers and councilors occurs during the annual meeting, so new councilors will be voting members of the council after lunch. Mackworth requested that retiring and incoming councilors vote during their respective appropriate terms.

The minutes of the March 16, 2006 meeting of the executive council were approved.

Secretary-treasurer Ted Senator reviewed the fiduciary responsibilities

for AAAI executive council members, including duties of care, loyalty, and obedience. Ron Brachman stressed the importance of attendance at all meetings, and reminded councilors that it is required as part of their term of office.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance. Finance committee chair Ted Senator briefly reviewed the current financial state of the organization, noting that a \$600,000 operating deficit is budgeted for 2006. The executive committee has been working toward a sustainable operating deficit of \$300,000 for the past several years. The deficit is funded by AAAI's operating reserve. The updated projection for 2006 looks more positive, but Senator stressed that the council needs to continue to work toward the \$300,000 goal through reduced expenses and/or increased revenue streams. A short discussion followed about ways to help achieve this goal, and the council agreed that a concerted fundraising/sponsorship effort was needed. A more detailed discussion on this topic took place under new business.

Senator reminded the council that budget planning for 2007 takes place in the fall of each year, with a preliminary budget in place by mid-October. Committee chairs should make any funding requests in September 15 in order to have them included in the budget process. They should also submit ideas for new sources of revenue by this date.

CRA Report. (This report was given early due to schedule conflicts for CRA liaison Tim Finin.) Tim Finin reported that the Computing Research Association task force on the image of IT was establishing a full-time position to create and implement solutions to address the mismatch between the image and reality of information technology. The goal of this effort is to draw more students to the field at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and to improve public understanding of information technology through awareness campaigns, press campaigns, outreach programs, and so on. The position will be housed in the National Center

for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) at the University of Colorado at Boulder (ATLAS Institute). Committed sponsors include HP, ACM, IEEE-CS, USENIX, SIAM, and CRA. AAAI was asked to donate \$10,000 per year for 3 years. Finin recommended that AAAI consider some level of support, even if at a lower level. The executive committee will make a final recommendation.

Finin also reported that under an agreement with the National Science Foundation, CRA will establish a consortium of computing experts that will provide scientific leadership and vision on issues related to computing research and future large-scale computing research projects. Under the three-year, \$6 million agreement, CRA will create the Computing Community Consortium (CCC) to identify major research opportunities and establish "grand challenges" for the field. The CCC will create venues for community participation for developing visions and creating new research activities. Finin stressed the importance of having an AI representative on the advisory board.

Awards/Fellows/Nominating. Awards committee chair Ron Brachman reported that seven new fellows had been elected in 2006, with a high (over 50 percent) international representation. Rather than just having a dinner this year, the fellows gathered in Cambridge for the 2006 Fellows Symposium in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Dartmouth Conference. About 95 fellows participated in this event.

Ed Feigenbaum was selected as the AAAI Distinguished Service Award winner and the Classic Paper was awarded to two 1987 papers, with honorable mention to two others. The council discussed replacing the current certificate and monetary award with a plaque. A small travel subsidy may also be continued. The Executive Committee will make a final determination in the fall.

The Intel Science awards were given to 13 students for 10 projects (three teams of 2) May 7-13 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The council thanked AAAI judges Reid Simmons (chair), Martha Pollack, David Kortenkamp, and Hol-

ly Yanco for their efforts in reviewing these projects.

Conference. AAAI-07 program co-chair (and future conference committee chair) Yolanda Gil reviewed the new programs for AAAI-06, including the special track on AI and the web, the special track on Integrated Intelligence Capabilities, the Nectar papers, the senior member papers, and the member posters. She reported that all programs had been very successful with the exception of member posters, which only received a small number of submissions. She and her cochair, Ray Mooney, had recruited a larger SPC and PC this year, which had resulted in better coverage of research areas and a more manageable reviewer load. The invited speaker program for both AAAI and IAAI was noteworthy, with keynote addresses by Tim Berners-Lee in AAAI and Sebastian Thrun in IAAI. Bruce Buchanan delivered the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture. Attendance at the conference was up 25% from 2005, and the council agreed that it was very important to maintain this momentum into 2007. Retiring conference committee chair Jim Hendler and the entire council thanked Gil and Mooney, as well as general conference chair Ken Forbus and IAAI cochairs Bruce Porter and Bill Cheatham, for all their efforts in making AAAI-06/IAAI-06 such a success.

The AAAI-07 program cochairs will be Rob Holte of the University of Alberta and Adele Howe of Colorado State University. A preliminary call for papers was issued at AAAI-06, but the chairs were waiting to see how new programs were received before making final commitments for 2007. The position of general conference chair was created in 2006 largely to help with the 50th anniversary aspects of the conference. The conference committee decided that it was not necessary to continue this position in future years because of the support provided by the AAAI staff. The council thanked Jim Hendler for his service over the past several years as conference committee chair.

Carol Hamilton reported that the AIIDE-06 conference did not realize its anticipated attendance, partly due to a fall off in industry participation and

no industry headliner for the invited speaker program. The program chair for 2007 will be Jonathan Schaeffer, who is anxious to get the program back on track. The council recommended that the organizers for AIIDE, which is a AAAI conference, be more integrated into the conference committee structure and that the committee communicate with them on a regular basis. As a new program, AIIDE will be reviewed for three years before any decision is made about its future.

Conference Outreach (formerly Grants). Conference outreach committee chair Lise Getoor directed council members attention to the current conference sponsorship guidelines. With the elimination of outside conference grants, the program has transitioned into one primarily aimed at conference cooperation, with over 15 conferences granted this status in 2006. In the current model, conferences contact AAAI for cooperation or affiliation. The committee would like to change the structure of this program so that AAAI initiates contact with conferences in the AI field, and establishes ongoing cooperation with them. The committee will be reviewing the current guidelines to see if there are stumbling blocks for conferences to establish this cooperation, and perhaps to recommend modifications to the current guidelines. In addition, a letter will be sent in the fall to all conferences identified in Yolanda Gil's 2005 report, as well as any others that the council or committee can recommend. The council agreed that this is an important initiative in helping to reduce fragmentation in the field and to coordinate conference activities throughout the field.

Membership. AAAI membership levels have remained constant for the past several years. However, they have not reflected the recent growth in conference participation. Alan Mackworth reminded the council that the current chair's term is complete, and that a new chair is being sought. The council asked the membership committee to review current benefits, as well as the demographic make-up of the committee, and encouraged the committee to reach out to industry and students to grow membership. Maria Gini volun-

teered to serve on the committee. The executive committee will review possible candidates for chair, and the president will appoint a chair in the fall.

Publications. Publication chair and *AI Magazine* editor David Leake reported that the next several issues of *AI Magazine* were lined up with special issues on innovative applications of artificial intelligence and mixed-initiative assistants, as well as a section on metareasoning and metalearning. The 2006 winter issue will include several special elements commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Dartmouth Conference. Work was also commencing on a commemorative AI poster that will be included in a future issue of the magazine. A committee was being formed to oversee the development of this poster, and funding was being sought from the National Science Foundation.

AAAI Press editor Tony Cohn noted that he has formed an editorial board and asked members of the council to encourage colleagues to send good proposals to the AAAI Press for consideration. *Thinking about Android Epistemology*, edited by Kenneth Ford, Clark Glymour, and Patrick Hayes was launched in early 2006. The press has seen an upsurge in revenue, largely due to an increased interest in the proceedings collection and technical report series during the past year. The press is in its third year of producing and distributing the hard copy of the *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research*. It has proven to be a viable addition to the press list, with production costs and subscription revenue breaking even. Based on a recommendation by the publications committee, the council voted to extend the publication of *JAIR* for another three years.

A proposal to include the best papers of AAAI-06 in an upcoming issue of the *Artificial Intelligence Journal* will be reviewed by the publications committee, and they will make a formal recommendation to the executive committee.

Symposium. Symposium committee associate chair Karen Myers reported that the 2006 Spring Symposium at Stanford University was well attended with eight symposia. A call for proposals for the 2007 meeting was distribut-

ed at AAAI-06. The Fall Symposium will be held in Arlington, Virginia, just outside of Washington, DC. Registration materials had been distributed for the nine symposia. No funding workshop will be held in 2006.

Annual Business Meeting (Break). The meeting then broke for the AAAI annual business meeting, during which the installation of newly elected councilors David Aha, David Musliner, Michael Pazzani, and Holly Yanco was completed.

Retiring councilors Steve Chien, Yolanda Gil, Haym Hirsh, and Andrew Moore were thanked for their years of service.

New Business

AAAI Name Change. Alan Mackworth introduced a proposal from the executive committee to rename AAAI. The proposed name would be the "Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence," retaining the current acronym. The proposal is a result of several years of discussion and represents an attempt to reflect the current and historical make-up of the organization. AAAI's conference participation, conference submissions, membership, and publications all have significant international representation. Despite this fact, several international groups have chosen not to affiliate with AAAI because they wish to maintain their international status. It is hoped that one benefit of the name change might be that these groups could establish and maintain closer ties with AAAI.

Mackworth stressed that AAAI's mission will remain unchanged. AAAI will continue its cooperative efforts with other internationally based organizations, and currently has no plans to move its annual conference out of North America. This proposal addresses our dual roles in the global and North American arenas as we move forward into our second quarter century. Mackworth noted that further discussions would be held during the strategic planning committee at AAAI-06, but asked for a vote from the executive council on whether to proceed with this plan. A side issue is the renaming of the annual conference, which should be done in any event be-

cause it is now being held in Canada on a periodic basis.

The council was very enthusiastic about the proposal after a lengthy discussion of the possible ramifications of the name change. They recommended that the strategic planning committee, consisting of all past presidents, the current president, and the president-elect, discuss the proposal. In addition, Carol Hamilton will investigate all the legal and financial implications of the proposal. Before moving forward, a vote of the membership will be conducted; a notice will be published in *AI Magazine*; and other large AI societies will be notified of the effective date for the name change. Alan Mackworth will also announce the plan to other AI societies at the international societies meeting at IJCAI-07 in Hyderabad, India.

The council unanimously approved the motion to proceed with the renaming of AAAI to the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, with one abstention.

AAAI Fund Raising Process. Alan Mackworth noted that the current level of fundraising is considerably below what other smaller organizations achieve. Part of this problem may lie with the current decentralized approach, and the lack of a formal plan. In addition, the council agreed that it would be helpful to have a specific person or committee responsible for fundraising on an ongoing basis, rather than an annual effort restricted to conference activities. The goal would be to establish organizational sponsors, rather than or in addition to conference sponsors. A centralized effort would mean that the money could be directed to areas in the most need.

None of the current committees lend themselves naturally to this type of activity. There was general agreement that fundraising should move to the council level, establishing a single point of contact for all sponsors. A task force was established and will be chaired by president-elect Eric Horvitz. The goal of the task force will be to generate a document describing what AAAI does, and listing sponsorship options, which will be circulated and posted on the web. The task force will

investigate best practices of other societies and conferences with regard to sponsorship, and generate a list of suggestions for AAAI to pursue. The following individuals also agreed to serve on the task force: Peter Stone, Lise Getoor (conference outreach committee chair), Yolanda Gil (conference committee chair), and David Musliner. Other appropriate members will be sought in the coming months.

Strategic Planning. Past president Ron Brachman noted that the strategic planning committee would be meeting during AAAI-06, and that it was a good opportunity to get their feedback on important issues. Aside from the name change proposal, the council also suggested the following topics for discussion: fundraising and sponsorship activities; membership development strategies; new areas of endeavor for the future; visibility of AI in government funding agencies, the public arena, and other scientific organizations; portrayal of AI as a worthy and exciting science through the publication of open scientific questions; conference fragmentation and its effect on conference participation; AI in undergraduate education; and the establishment of grand challenges for AI.

Alan Mackworth thanked the council members for their participation, and encouraged them to stay involved throughout the year. The next meeting will be held just prior to the spring symposium series in Palo Alto. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Independent Auditor's Statement

The Board of Directors
American Association for
Artificial Intelligence
Menlo Park, California

I have audited the statement of financial position of American Association for Artificial Intelligence as of December 31, 2005 and the related statements of activities, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. My responsibility is to

express an opinion on these financial statements based on the audits.

I conducted the audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that the audits provide a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of American Association for Artificial Intelligence as of December 31, 2005 and the results of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.



Robert H. Burnham,
May 3, 2006

Notes to Financial Statements, December 31, 2005

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Method of Accounting: The financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

As required by Financial Accounting Standards No. 124 investments are stated at fair market value, and realized and unrealized gains and losses are combined on the statement of activities.

B. Inventory: Magazine, proceedings, conference books and publications in process inventory is valued at the lower of cost or market value as of December 31, 2005.

C. Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment: Furniture, fixtures and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over estimated useful lives of five to ten years. Furniture, fixtures and equipment consist of the following at December 31, 2005.

Cost	\$ 57,144
Accumulated depreciation	(33,947)
Net	\$ 23,197

Changes in Net Assets: Gross Profit (Loss), By Activity:

AI Magazine Revenue	\$ 8,326	
AI Magazine Expenses	(143,481)	\$ (135,155)
Memberships Revenue (Note 4)	390,236	
Memberships Expenses	(135,487)	254,749
AAAI Press Revenue	103,217	
AAAI Press Cost of Sales	(113,207)	(9,990)
Spring Symposium 2005 Revenue	65,680	
Symposium Expenses	(55,395)	10,285
Tutorials '05 Revenue	18,590	
Tutorials Expenses	(24,002)	(5,412)
Fall Symposium '05 Revenue	67,194	
Symposium Expenses	(56,618)	10,576
Technical Program '05 Revenue	354,111	
Program Expenses	(324,295)	29,816
Conference Service Fees	64,330	
Conference Service Expenses	(64,330)	-0-
AIIDE '05 Revenue	57,623	
AIIDE '05 Expenses	(58,986)	(1,363)
2005 Exhibits Revenue	23,800	
Exhibits Expenses	(47,918)	(24,118)
Grants/Fellows Revenue	44,477	
Expenses	(113,181)	(68,704)
Prior Year Income, Net		2,585
KDD Sponsorship		5,063
Interest & Dividend Income (investments & cash accounts)		194,012
Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments (Note 1A)		82,152
Investment Management Fees		(72,394)
Gross Profit, Combined		272,102
Operating Expenses		(614,645)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets		(342,543)
Net Assets — January 1, 2005		7,624,286
Net Assets — December 31, 2005		\$ 7,281,743

AAAI Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended December 31, 2005.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

D. Income Taxes: American Association for Artificial Intelligence is exempt from income taxes on its earning from investments and its exempt function operations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701(d) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Federal and California taxes were paid during 2005 on earnings from sales of mailing lists and advertising.

Note 2: Operations

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) was formed in 1979 as a scientific society, to encourage the basic knowledge of what constitutes intelligent thought and behavior and how it can be exhibited in computers. This is accomplished by the *AI Magazine*, the publications of the AAAI Press, the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (NCAL), the Conference on Innovative Applica-

tions of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI), the conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment, the Mobile Robot Competition, the Symposium Series, and the AAAL Workshop Program. In addition, AAAL has an extensive program for student scholarships, women and minority grants, and sponsorship of independent workshops and conferences. Finally, AAAL's World Wide Web Site serves as a central resource for individuals involved in AI research.

Note 3: Investments at December 31, 2005

Investments are stated at fair market value since it is readily determinable and the investments are not necessarily being held to any maturity. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reported in the statement of activities.

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 404,939
Investments — Stated at Fair Market Value (Note 1A & 3)	7,124,342
Accounts Receivable	5,061
Inventory (Note 1B)	195,881
Prepaid Expenses	<u>33,818</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	7,764,041
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, Net (Note 1C)	23,197
Deposits	<u>5,279</u>
	<u>\$ 7,792,517</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 94,549
Funds Held in Trust for Other Organizations	92,744
Unearned Membership Fees (Note 4)	317,106
Other Unearned Revenue	<u>6,375</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	510,774
Net Assets – Unrestricted	<u>7,281,743</u>
	<u>\$ 7,792,517</u>

AAAI Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2005.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:	
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (342,543)
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Flows From Operations:	
Depreciation Expense	12,611
Net Decrease in Accounts Receivable	27,537
Net Decrease in Inventory	33,272
Net (Increase) in Prepaid Expenses	(8,267)
Net Increase in Accounts Payable	45,895
Net (Decrease) in Funds held in trust	(88,574)
Net Increase in Unearned Membership Fees	37,599
Net Increase in Other Unearned Revenue	6,375
Net Unrealized and Realized Gains on Investments	<u>(82,152)</u>
Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	<u>(358,247)</u>
Cash Flow From Investing Activities:	
Purchase of Furnishings & Equipment, Net	(3,998)
Sale of Investments, Net of Purchases of Investments	<u>135,808</u>
Net Cash Flow From Investing Activities	<u>131,810</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	(226,437)
Cash — January 1, 2005	<u>631,376</u>
Cash — December 31, 2005	<u>\$ 404,939</u>

AAAI Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended December 31, 2005.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Investment activity for 2005 is as follows:

Investments—Beginning of year (At fair market value)	\$ 7,177,998
Unrealized & Realized gains	82,152
Interest & Dividends (Investments only)	<u>184,766</u>
Total Return on Investments	7,444,916
Purchases of Investments	2,757,700
Sales of Investments	(2,893,508)
Interest & Dividends deposited to Cash	<u>(184,766)</u>
Investments — End of Year	<u>\$ 7,124,342</u>

Investments consist of the following at 12-31-2005:

U.S. Obligations & Corp. Fixed Income	\$ 2,425,337
Common/Preferred Stocks	<u>4,699,005</u>
Total Investments — Unrestricted	<u>\$ 7,124,342</u>

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Note 4: Memberships

Annual membership in the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (which includes a subscription price to the AI magazine of \$40 per year) is \$95 for individuals, \$35 for student members, and \$190 for academic/corporate libraries. \$40 is added to the above for other than U.S. members. Three, five year, and lifetime memberships are also available. All Revenue from memberships is included in the AI Memberships gross profit center. Revenues from membership fees are earned ratably over the respective membership period. Lifetime membership fees are recognized as income over ten years.

Note 5: Pension Benefits

American Association for Artificial Intelligence sponsors a pension plan under Section 403 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code. Prior to 2005 the company contributed to individual accounts five percent of their salaries for regular, full-time employees who had worked a minimum of three years at AAAI. In addition, AAAI matched employees' contributions up to five percent of their salaries for regular, full-time employees who had worked a minimum of five years at AAAI. In order to bring AAAI into compliance with IRS regulations minimum requirements for company contributions were changed to two years, retroactive to the date of establishment of the pension plan. AAAI accrued an estimated catch-up company contribution and interest of \$45,000 in 2005. The catch-up accrual was in addition to the company contribution of \$42,119 attributable to 2005 salaries.

Note 6: Lease Commitments

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence entered into a lease agreement for its office space expiring on September 30, 2008. The Association is committed to make minimum annual lease payments of \$104,225 for 2006, \$107,353 for 2007, and \$82,313 for 2008.