AAAI News

Winter News from the
Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

Please Join Us in Chicago for AAAI / IAAI 2008

The Twenty-Third AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-08) will be held July 13–17, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois. The Twentieth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-08) will be collocated with AAAI-08, and will be held July 15–17 (see www.aaai.org /iaai08.php).

The program cochairs for 2008, Dieter Fox (University of Washington) and Carla Gomes (Cornell University) will continue the innovations introduced during the past two years of the conference, and have added a few new touches. Included in these will be a new special track on Physically Grounded AI and the opportunity for all technical paper authors to submit supplementary materials during the review process. An overview of the special tracks is included below. For the full technical Call for Participation, as well as program deadlines and guidelines, please visit the AAAI-08 website at www.aaai.org/aaai08.php.

Special Technical Paper Tracks

The 2008 conference will again feature special technical paper tracks. Returning are tracks on AI and the web and integrated intelligence, to be joined this year by a new track on physically grounded AI.

Artificial Intelligence and the Web. This 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.

Integrated Intelligence. The integrated intelligence track welcomes submissions on issues that arise in the design and construction of an integrated system, and empirical studies that illustrate the efficacy of the integrated system. Papers 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.

NEW! **Physically Grounded Artificial Intelligence.** The physically grounded AI track, new for 2008, welcomes papers in robotics, vision, activity recognition and other areas of artificial intelligence where computers interface to physical environments.

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.

Nectar Papers

The goal of the nectar program (new scientific and technical advances in research) is to make the most significant AI results presented at other conferences in the last two years available to a broad AI audience. Papers that are based on important results already published in the proceedings of at least one major specialized conference during 2006 or 2007, as either a single paper or a series of papers, are welcome. This program aims to offer 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-08 will also include all of these ongoing programs:

- AAAI-08 Workshop Program
- AAAI-08 Tutorial Forum
- AAAI-08 Student Abstract & Poster Program
- Thirteenth AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium
- AAAI Intelligent Systems Demonstrations
- AAAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition
- AAAI General Game Playing Competition
- AAAI Poker Competition
- AAAI Video Competition

Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

We are pleased to announce the continuation of the AAAI 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 15, 2008. 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 scholarships08 @aaai.org, or 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025 USA. 1-650-328-3123.

AAAI E-mail Addresses to Change

AAAI will again be modifying its e-mail addresses in 2008 in an effort to reduce the amount of spam that we are receiving. We will be adding 08 to all e-mail addresses, as follows:

aaai08
aiide08
aimagazine08
aitopics08
awards08
fellows08
fss08
iaai08
icwsm08
info08
membership08
orders08
press08
scholarships08
sss08
volunteer08
workshops08

The number will be updated on an annual basis. AAAI can also be reached by filling out the contact form: www.aaai.org/Forms/contact-form.php

The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in Chicago. In 2008, 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 assis-

AAAI-08 Deadlines

A few important deadlines to note on your calendar:

January 22: IAAI-08 Electronic papers due
January 23: AAAI-08 Student Abstracts due
January 25: AAAI-08 Electronic Technical & Special Track Abstracts due
January 30: AAAI-08 Technical Paper & Special Track Papers due
February 1: AAAI-08 Doctoral Consortium Applications due
February 19: AAAI-08 Senior Member & Nectar Papers due
March 18: AAAI-08 Intelligent System Demos proposals due
April 15: AAAI-08 Technical/Senior Member/Nectar final papers due
April 15: AAAI-08 Technical/Senior Member/Nectar final papers due
May 15: AAAI-08 Robot Competition registrations due

tance 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 volunteer08@aaai.org. The deadline for volunteer applications is April 15, 2008.

2008 Spring Symposium Series

The 2008 Spring Symposium Series will be held Wednesday through Friday, March 26–28 at Stanford University and will feature eight symposia. The titles of and contact persons for the symposia are as follows:

- AI Meets Business Rules and Process Management. *Contact:* Knut Hinkelmann (knut.hinkelmann@fhnw.ch)
- Architectures for Intelligent Theory-Based Agents. *Contact:* Marcello Balduccini (aita08.aaai@gmail.com)
- Creative Intelligent Systems. *Contact:* Dan Ventura (ventura@cs.byu.edu)
- Emotion, Personality, and Social Behavior. *Contact:* Eva Hudlicka (Hudlicka@ieee.org)
- Semantic Scientific Knowledge Integration. *Contact:* Deborah L. McGuinness (mcguid@rpi.edu) or Peter Fox (pfox@ucar.edu)
- Social Information Processing. *Contact:* Kristina Lerman (lerman@isi.edu) oe David Gutelius (gutelius@ai.sri.com)
- Symbiotic Relationships between Semantic Web and Knowledge Engineering. *Contact:* Mark Musen (musen@stanford.edu) or Derek Sleeman (d.sleeman@abdn.ac.uk)
- Using AI to Motivate Greater Participation in Computer Science. *Contact:* Mehran Sahami (sahami@cs.stanford.edu)

Registration information is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss08.php. The deadline for registration for invited participants is February 8 and the general registration deadline is February 29.

2008 Fall Symposium Series

The 2007 Fall Symposium Series was a great success with over 250 participants. The 2008 Fall Symposium Series will return to the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia just outside of Washington, DC, November 7–9. Proposals for the approximately eight symposia are now being accepted. Proposals should be sent no later than January 25, 2008 via e-mail to symposium committee chair Alan C. Schultz (Naval Research Laboratory) at schultz@aic.nrl.navy.mil. For the complete Call for Proposals, please see www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss08.php.

2008 Special Award Nominations

We are pleased to announce the continuation of two special awards in 2008, and are currently seeking nominations for the 2008 AAAI Classic Paper Award and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award. The 2008 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Eighth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence,

held in 1990 in Boston, Massachusetts. The 2008 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-08 in Chicago. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.php. The deadline for nominations is March 14, 2008. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

Member News

AAAI member Deborah L. McGuinness has joined Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as an endowed chair of the Tetherless World Research Constellation. One of the creators of the OWL web ontology language, McGuinness joins the senior constellation chair, James A. Hendler. McGuinness was most recently at Stanford University where she led the Knowledge Systems Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. She is widely known for her research on the semantic web. The Tetherless World Constellation at Rensselaer will guide research on technologies that will support a web-accessible world in which personal digital assistants, cameras, music-listening devices, cell phones, laptops, and other devices converge. The constellation will encompass multidisciplinary teams of senior and junior faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates in information technology, computer science, and cognitive science.

In Memoriam

We note with with great sadness the passing of philosopher of science and epistemology Henry Kyburg, Jr. Kyburg was a cross-appointed professor at the University of Rochester and a senior research scientist and Pace Eminent Scholar at the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC). Among his many honors was his election as a Fellow of AAAI, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Science. Kyburg was born in 1928 and earned his Ph.D. in philosophy in 1955 from Columbia University.

AAAI Welcomes ICWSM as the Newest AAAI Conference!

AAAI is pleased to announce that the International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media is now an AAAI conference. This meeting, which grew out of a series of workshops and a very successful 2006 AAAI spring symposium, launched its inaugural conference in 2007. It has now forged a formal alliance with AAAI for 2008 and beyond.

ICWSM 2008 will be held in Seattle, Washington at the Seattle Hilton, March 31–April 3. The conference will bring together academic and industrial practitioners to present and to discuss new research, applications, thoughts and ideas that are shaping the future of social media analysis. The conference aims to bring together researchers from different subject areas including computer science, linguistics, psychology, statistics, sociology, multimedia and semantic web technologies.

An impressive line-up of invited speakers will be included in the 2008 program, including Bernardo A. Huberman (HP Labs), who will speak on "Social Dynamics in the Age of the Web;" David Sifry (Founder, Technorati, Sputnik, and Linuxcare); and Brad Fitzpatrick (LiverJournal Founder). In addition, two tutorials are planned, including "Subjectivity and Sentiment Analysis" by Jan Wiebe (University of Pittsburgh) and "Graph Mining Techniques for Social Media Analysis" by Mary McGlohon and Christos Faloutsos (Carnegie Mellon University).

The deadline for technical paper submissions has passed, but poster and demo submissions are being accepted until January 6, 2008. For complete submission details, please see www.icwsm.org/2008/dates.shtml.

AIIDE Moves to Fall!

The Fourth Annual Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-08) will be held October 22–24, 2008 at Stanford University in Stanford, California. Please note this shift to the fall time period. AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. Sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of 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 games. The call for participation for AIIDE-08 is available at www.aaai. org/Conferences/AIIDE/aiide08.php. Technical papers will be due April 22, 2008. Please send inquiries to aiide08@aaai.org or to the conference chair, Michael Mateas (University of California, Santa Cruz).

We also regret to report the passing of AAAI Fellow Ryszard S. Michalski, Planning Research Corporation Chaired Professor of Computational Sciences and Health Informatics, and director of the Center for Discovery Science and Health Informatics at George Mason University. Michalski was a cofounder of the field of machine learning and also cofounded the *Journal of Machine Learning.* Among his many honors, he was a foreign member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and affiliate scientist at the Institute of Computer Science in Warsaw, and held visiting professorships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Wisconsin as well as at universities in Europe.

AAAI Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council Meeting was held July 23, 2007, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Attending: David Aha, Ron Brachman, Cynthia Breazeal, Tony Cohn, Marie desJardins, Lise Getoor, Yolanda Gil, Eric Horvitz, David Leake, Alan Mackworth, Sheila McIlraith, David Musliner, Karen Myers, Michael Pazzani, Martha Pollack, Ted Senator, David E. Smith, Peter Stone, Rich Sutton, Sebastian Thrun, Holly Yanco, Mike Hamilton, Carol Hamilton

Not Attending: Oren Etzioni, Maria Gini, Kevin Knight, Illah Nourbakhsh

Alan Mackworth opened the meeting at 9:05 AM with introductions. He welcomed president-elect Martha Pollack, and the new councilors — Cynthia Breazeal, Sheila McIlraith, David E. Smith, and Rich Sutton. He also thanked the outgoing councilors — Oren Etzioni, Lise Getoor, Karen Myers, and Illah Nourbakhsh. The official changing of the guard took place at the Annual Business meeting during the Executive Council lunch break. Mackworth encouraged new councilors to contribute to the council by participating on at least one or two committees of interest. New ideas should be forwarded to the executive committee.

The minutes of the March 2007 meeting, which were circulated prior to the meeting, were approved, pending a few minor corrections to be submitted by Ron Brachman.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance. Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator reported that the overall revenue for the year was down from 2006 primarily because of a slightly lower attendance at the conference. He noted that the 50th anniversary in 2006 resulted in a larger than normal attendance. Alan Mackworth noted that AAAI has been working to reduce its deficit during the past several years, bringing it down from $1.2 million to $450,000 in 2006. It is expected to rise by about $100,000 in 2007. Mackworth suggested that the original goal of $300,000 or approximately 5 percent of the operating reserve might be revised to $400,000, given the current market value of the operating reserve at just over $8,000,000. Senator stressed that AAAI should continue to operate as conservatively as possible, and that all programs should be self-supporting. He will distribute his March finance report to the new councilors. He has been investigating options with regard to financial managers for AAAI. His initial findings indicate that switching to Vanguard could save up to $64,000 per year in management fees. He will have a recommendation on how to proceed at the next council meeting. Senator also noted that the finance committee is seeking a new member. Rich Sutton volunteered for this committee.

Awards/Fellows/Nominating. Past president and awards committee chair Ron Brachman gave an overview of the 2007 awards, noting that there are many different types of AAAI awards. Only the Distinguished Service Award and the Classic Paper Award are the purview of the AAAI awards committee. The 2007 Distinguished Service Award was given to Tom Mitchell for outstanding service to artificial intelligence and computer science, including seminal intellectual and service contributions to machine learning and leadership at Carnegie Mellon University and in AAAI, NRC, and AAAS. The 2007 Classic Paper Award was given to Peter Cheeseman, Matthew Self, Jim Kelly, Will Taylor, and Don Freeman for their 1988 paper entitled, "Bayesian Classification." Honorable Mention was also given to Benjamin J. Kuipers and Yung-Tai Byun for "A Robust, Qualitative Method for Robot Spatial Learning." Other 2007 awards included the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Award, presented to Oren Etzioni, University of Washington by *AI Magazine* and IAAI-07; the AAAI-07 Outstanding Paper Awards to James Allen, Nathanael Chambers, George Ferguson, Lucian Galescu, Hyuckchul Jung, Mary Swift, and William Taysom for "PLOW: A Collaborative Task Learning Agent" and Colin McMillen and Manuela Veloso for "Thresholded Rewards: Acting Optimally in Timed, Zero-Sum Games;" and the AAAI-07 outstanding program committee awards to Gerhard Brewka (Senior), Kiri Wagstaff, and Malte Helmert (Honorable Mention). There were several other conference-related awards, including those for IAAI deployed applications and all the various competitions held at AAAI-07, all of which are listed elsewhere in this issue. AAAI also awards $5,000 in awards at the annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. These awards were reported in the 2007 summer issue of *AI Magazine.*

Brachman suggested that the nominations for the Distinguished Service Award and the Classic Paper Award are not very detailed, and that the nomination form should be modified to require CV's and suggested citations for each candidate. He agreed to serve one more year on this committee to help revamp the process.

Brachman, who is also chair of the Fellows Selection committee, noted that there were seven new AAAI Fellows elected in 2007, including Pierre F. Baldi (University of California, Irvine), Adnan Y. Darwiche (University of California, Los Angeles), Hector A. Geffner (ICREA and Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Carla P. Gomes (Cornell University), Russell Greiner (University of Alberta), Stephen F. Smith (Carnegie Mellon University), and Milind Tambe (University of Southern California). The new Fellows were honored at a dinner at AAAI-07. The task of selecting new Fellows each year is difficult and was particularly challeng-

ing in 2007, with many excellent candidates to choose from. Brachman worked hard to achieve diversity among the selection committee members. Alan Mackworth, who will chair the committee in 2008, suggested that the international community be encouraged to submit more nominations.

Brachman also chaired the AAAI nominating committee. He thanked Martha Pollack and all the new councilors for their willingness to serve, as well as the retiring councilors for their past service and participation on the 2007 nominating committee. Brachman noted that nominations of international members are welcome. There was some discussion about including a teleconference option to encourage international participation, but no final decision was made about this.

Finally, Brachman noted that the AAAI past president chairs three committees, and this structure should probably be analyzed to see if one of these could be reassigned.

Conference Outreach. Conference Outreach committee chair Lise Getoor reviewed the transition in the application process for conferences to request AAAI cooperation. In the past, conferences requested this status from AAAI. In the fall of 2006, AAAI contacted approximately 35 conferences to see if they were interested in AAAI cooperation. This method met with great success. An additional 20 conferences contacted AAAI independently. The number of conferences with cooperation status has doubled. Getoor encouraged council members to send names of potential conferences to Carol Hamilton.

The committee is satisfied that the current list of guidelines do not require any further modifications at this time, and they will be posted on the AAAI website for 2008. The council encouraged the committee to work with nonparticipating conferences to see what might be of interest to them, such as AAAI conference, publication, or financial services. Alan Mackworth also suggested that the committee work with other national and international societies to forge alliances, and perhaps suggest a new structure that would formalize this.

Getoor noted that she will be step-

ping down as chair of the committee, and that a new committee member is being sought. Mackworth thanked her for her service.

Membership. Membership chair Holly Yanco reported that AAAI memberships had declined slightly over the past twelve months. The membership committee, also including Maria Gini and Kevin Knight, had met to discuss possible methods of building membership numbers. Their proposal was to initiate an incentive referral program whereby current members could receive a three-month extension in their membership by referring a new regular member. The council approved this plan and the membership committee will work with Carol Hamilton to finalize the details of the campaign.

Other suggestions for encouraging new members were discussed by the council, including a further discount for platinum members, online newsletters, lifetime e-mail addresses, online bibliographic services, and increased access to the greater AI community through the AAAI website. The membership committee plans to conduct a membership survey in the fall of 2007.

Publications. Publications committee chair and *AI Magazine* editor David Leake reported on the upcoming issues of the magazine, noting that the special fall issue will be on innovative applications of artificial intelligence, coedited by Bruce Porter and Bill Cheetham. Other upcoming special issues will include "What Went Wrong and Why: Lessons from AI Research and Applications" edited by Daniel Shapiro and Mehmet Goker, and "AI and Networks" edited by Marie desJardins, Matt Gaston, and Dragomir Radev. Plans for the 50th anniversary poster are unfolding. The poster will concentrate on the science and impact of AI, hopefully creating greater visibility for the field. An accompanying website will be a key feature of this project.

On an operational level, Leake reported that the US Postal Service abruptly discontinued second-class mailing to Canada and Mexico in May, forcing a last-minute change in mailing to those two countries. Unfortunately, it is now more expensive to

mail into Canada again. AAAI is investigating alternative vendors that can bring down the cost of international mailing. The publications committee will also be reviewing revisions to the AAAI copyright form that will make it more international in scope and bring it into line with current practice and policy. AAAI has installed new publications management software for *AI Magazine,* created by John Willinsky (University of British Columbia and Stanford). Managed by the Public Knowledge Project at Simon Fraser University Library, this open-source software handles the entire publications process from submissions through archiving. It is currently in use by more than 1,200 journals worldwide, including publications at the National Library of Australia, the University of Chicago Press, Stanford, University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, and First Monday. Once the XML import tools are released (scheduled for October), the back issue archives will be integrated into the system as well.

AAAI Press Editor Tony Cohn reported that Usama Fayyad's *Advances in Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining* was reprinted for the ninth time this spring. A total of 23 new technical reports have been produced this year from the 2007 Spring Symposium, the AIIDE-07 workshop, and the AAAI-07 workshops. An additional seven will be published in the fall. AAAI Press published several proceedings, including IJCAI-07, FLAIRS 2007, AIIDE-07, and AAAI-07. Other 2007 volumes will include ICAPS-07 and ICCCD-07. AAAI Press is also working with ICAPS-08 and KR-08 to publish their proceedings for Sydney, Australia. Revenue from the sale of technical reports and proceedings has continued to sustain operations. There is one new book project, and several pending book proposals. Volume 28 of JAIR should be forwarded from the editors shortly. Sales of this journal continue to be approximately break-even.

Both Leake and Cohn asked council members to encourage people to submit good articles and book proposals for consideration. They also thanked Mike Hamilton for his ef-

forts during the past year on AAAI publications.

Conference. Conference committee chair Yolanda Gil reported that 2008 program chairs Dieter Fox and Carla Gomes have issued the Call for Participation for AAAI-08. They plan to make a few modifications to the current program, including the solicitation of short papers. Authors will also be allowed to submit supplementary materials or addenda, which reviewers can elect to reference during their paper review. The special track programs will continue and may be expanded to include one more track. The program chairs will also be adding information to the online CFP in the fall clarifying any ambiguity about the confidential nature of submissions, the dual submission policy, and the strict requirement for original material. They will consult with the conference committee on these updates. The Call for Applications for the 2008 Doctoral Consortium has been issued, and other program calls will be posted to the website in the fall.

Gil thanked the AAAI-07 program chairs, Rob Holte and Adele Howe, for their commitment in planning such a successful conference. The 2007 program included several new items, such as the Human vs. Machine Poker Challenge, organized by Jonathan Schaeffer (University of Alberta) and the AI Video Competition, organized by David Aha (Naval Research Lab) and Sebastian Thrun (Stanford University). The Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition events were better coordinated with the technical program this year and a new vision challenge was added. In addition, the organizers are forming an advisory board, and welcome suggestions for possible participants from the Executive Council. The conference committee, in conjunction with the executive committee, will be reviewing the approval process for all special events at the conference to be sure that they are consistent and fair.

Registration for the conference exceeded 2005 numbers, but was slightly down from 2006 (50th anniversary), as expected. A proposal to offer complimentary conference registration for retired past presidents was enthusiastically approved.

The council thanked Yolanda for all of her efforts during the past two years to expand the scope of the conference, and increase participation. A report on AIIDE-07 registration and AIIDE-08 is included in New Business.

Symposium. Symposium associate chair Karen Myers announced that she was retiring and that her replacement is being sought. Holly Yanco volunteered to take on this role, as she has been quite active in symposium activities for several years. Myers reported that participation at the Spring Symposium was on track with 2006, with nine symposia being presented. Seven symposia will be held in Fall 2007, along with the AI Funding Seminar, which was not held in 2006. Another eight symposia are already slated for 2008.

The symposium committee is discussing ways to impress upon organizers that cancellation is not considered an option halfway through the process. One important aspect of this effort is to make organizers understand that the symposia are not intended to be mini-conferences, so a low number of submissions does not mean that a viable symposium is impossible. The council suggested that organizers be asked for a back-up plan at the time of submission in the event that paper submissions are lower than anticipated. The council also suggested that organizers be tracked and only be considered for another symposium if they have a good organizational record.

The council also discussed the possibility of instituting an ongoing workshop or symposium aimed at those who teach artificial intelligence. There have been past symposia on this, and the response has always been very positive.

Old Business

CRA. Marie desJardins, who took over as the AAAI Computing Research Association (CRA) Liaison in 2007, reported on the recent activities of the CRA. desJardins had just attended the semi-annual CRA Board Meeting. Martha Pollack is also a new member of the CRA Board. A few of the key issues discussed were:

Government Funding — The general consensus was that the funding situation was improving, but still unclear. A number of increases were approved in the House, but it remained to be seen what the Senate and President would do. NSF has a new initiative that will begin in 2008 on "Cyber Enabled Discovery and Innovation," which is of relevance to the AI community. Some concern was expressed about the recent increase on restrictions on DARPA funding (specifically associated with restrictions on publication and foreign students). Some larger universities have turned down DARPA funding because of these restrictions. Others said that their institutions had been able to negotiate acceptable language in their contracts, so there was no consensus about whether this was a major concern yet.

Snowbird Conference — The next CRA Snowbird conference (for academic and research laboratory administrators) will be held July 13–15, 2008 —unfortunately overlapping somewhat with the AAAI conference.

Image of Computing — CRA continues to be involved with the Task Force on the Image of Computing. There is some evidence that enrollments are leveling off, perhaps even starting to move up slightly, but clearly the perception of computing continues to be less positive than the community would like. The task force plans to launch the "iCompute" PR campaign, which will be aimed at teens, to improve the perception and awareness of how "cool" computing is. The CRA is interested in any programs that affiliate members have to address the declining involvement of women and minorities in computer science.

Awards — CRA encourages members of the community to submit nominations for their awards, ACM Fellowships, and other opportunities to recognize significant contributions in computer science.

Faculty Search and Tenure Processes — The faculty search process encountered some bottlenecks in the system this year, resulting in failed searches for smaller universities and many applicants with no jobs. It ap-

peared that this was an isolated problem, and suggestions to improve coordination, such as a "job fair," were rejected by larger universities. The related topic of the tenure process was also discussed. The 1999 Best Practices memo that talked about conference vs. journal papers has been very useful in clarifying scholarly expectations for computing researchers, and there was general agreement that this should be updated.

CCC — NSF's Computing Community Consortium is an effort to provide scientific leadership and long-term visions for computing research. The CCC also encompasses the GENI Science Council, which oversees the Global Environment for Network Innovations (GENI) effort. One of the key goals of the CCC is to "engage the computing community in visioning" – that is, in trying to achieve some consensus in articulating the key long-term goals and research challenges for computing research. The permanent council includes Andrew McCallum and David Waltz.

Sibling AI Societies. Alan Mackworth and Eric Horvitz reported that no progress had been made yet by IJCAI on efforts to form a liaison mechanism for international societies following the International Societies meeting in India in January 2007. At that time, representatives at the meeting expressed a strong desire to improve coordination and communication among societies. In addition, AAAI has received inquiries about possible affiliations with international groups. The council considered where this type of outreach might fit in the overall AAAI committee structure. As noted above, it may be something that the conference outreach committee will pursue.

AAAI Video Project. Reid Smith and Bruce Buchanan reported on their progress on the AI Video Project. This initiative grew out of the video archive created at the Fellows Symposium in 2006, funded by the National Science Foundation in cooperation with MIT. Since that time, Smith and Buchanan have done extensive research on the best way to create a physical archive and a digital archive that will be the central start-

Outstanding Program Committee Awards. Pictured are Rob Holte, Michael Thielscher (accepting on behalf of Gerhard Brewka), Malte Helmert, and Kiri Wagstaff.

ing point for access to all AI videos. AAAI will not host videos, but will create links to them and may host some clips. Research libraries will continue to store the source material, as they have the mechanisms in place to archive it properly. Smith has been working on a wiki model for the video site. Buchanan will be soliciting videos from senior AI researchers, and will alert the community to this project through an article in *AI Magazine.* He and Smith will also be identifying topic editors. A more extensive grant from NSF is being requested to continue this project. The council thanked Smith and Buchanan for all their efforts in bringing this project to a reality.

Fundraising. Eric Horvitz reported on recent discussions of the executive committee regarding AAAI fundraising efforts. The committee recommends the establishment of an AAAI development committee expressly charged with fundraising for the organization. The chair of the committee will be charged with soliciting conference sponsorships, as well as establishing long-range programs for corporate or other affiliations. Ideally, tkkhe chair will be recruited in January of each year for an 18-month term to provide overlap between chairs. Committee members will also include the president-elect, the conference committee chair, and the ex-

ecutive director. The council voted to approve the establishment of the development committee. Horvitz asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. David Musliner and Mike Pazzani agreed to serve on the committee. Martha Pollack will follow up with the first meeting in the fall and a chair will be selected for the coming year.

IJCAI-09. Carol Hamilton reported that the local arrangements committee has now been expanded to 17 members, representing USC/ISI, UC Irvine, UCLA, JPL, The Aerospace Corporation, and Northrup Grumman Corporation. The committee is chaired by Rich Doyle of JPL. Three subcommittees have been formed, including Fundraising, Special Events, and Communications and Outreach. AAAI staff will be updating the preliminary budget in the fall. The hotels have been confirmed, and the convention center contract will be finalized within the next couple of months.

AAAI-10. Carol Hamilton reported that the search for AAAI-10 has now been narrowed to Atlanta for July 11-15, 2010. The contract is under review and it is hoped that it can be finalized before the end of the year. The search for 2011 is also underway and will be expanded this fall.

AAAI-08 Workshop Program

The Twenty-Third AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence
Call for Participation

July 13-14, 2008
Chicago, Illinois, USA

AAAI is pleased to present the AAAI-08 Worksho p Program, to be held Sunday and Monday, July 13–14, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The program includes the following fifteen workshops:

- Advancements in POMDP Solvers. *Contact:* Guy Shani (Microsoft, guyshani@ microsoft.com)
- AI Education Workshop. *Contact:* Zach Dodds (Harvey Mudd College, zdodds@ gmail.com), Haym Hirsh (National Science Foundation, hhirsh@nsf.gov), and Kiri Wagstaff (Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA, kiri.wagstaff@jpl.nasa.gov)
- Coordination, Organization, Institutions and Norms in Agent Systems. *Contact:* Eric Matson (Wright State University, eric.matson@wright.edu)
- Enhanced Messaging. *Contact:* Mark Dredze (University of Pennsylvania, mdredze@seas.upenn.edu)
- Human Implications of Human-Robot Interaction. *Contact:* Ted Metzler (Oklahoma City University, tmetzler@okcu. edu)
- Intelligent Techniques for Web Personalization and Recommender Systems. *Contact:* Sarab Anand (University of Warwick, UK, ssanand@dcs.warwick.ac.uk)
- Metareasoning: Thinking about Thinking. *Contact:* Michael Cox (BBN Technologies, mcox@bbn.com)
- Mobile Robot Workshop. *Contact:* Paul Oh (Drexel University, paul@cbis.ece. drexel.edu)
- Multidisciplinary Workshop on Advances in Preference Handling. *Contact:* Ulrich Junker (ILOG, France, ujunker@ilog.fr)
- Search in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. *Contact:* Wheeler Ruml (University of New Hampshire, ruml@cs. unh.edu)
- Spatial and Temporal Reasoning. *Contact:* Hans Guesgen (Massey University, New Zealand, h.w.guesgen@massey.ac .nz)
- Trading Agent Design and Analysis. *Contact:* Norman Sadeh-Koniecpol (Carnegie Mellon University, sadeh@cs. cmu.edu)
- Transfer Learning for Complex Tasks. *Contact:* Matthew Taylor (University of Texas at Austin, mtaylor@cs.utexas.edu)
- What Went Wrong and Why: Lessons from AI Research and Applications. *Contact:* Mehmet Goker (PricewaterhouseCoopers, mehmet.goker@us.pwc.com)
- Wikipedia and Artificial Intelligence: An Evolving Synergy. *Contact:* Evgeniy Gabrilovich (Yahoo! Research, gabr@ yahoo-inc.com)

Submission Requirements

Submission requirements vary for each workshop, and in a few cases, slightly earlier submissions deadlines have been set by individual workshop organizers. Please mail your submissions directly to the chair of the individual workshop according to their directions. Do not mail submissions to AAAI.

Important Dates

- *April 7:* Submissions due (unless noted otherwise)
- *April 21:* Notification of acceptance
- *May 5:* Camera-ready copy due to organizers
- *May 12:* Camera-ready copy due to AAAI
- *July 13–14:* AAAI-08 Workshop Program

For full descriptions and submission instructions, please see www.aaai.org/ Workshops/ws08.php or write to workshops08@ aaai.org

Workshop Cochairs

- Simon Parsons, Brooklyn College, City University of New York (parsons@sci. brooklyn.cuny.edu)
- Meinolf Sellman, Brown University (sello@cs.brown.edu)

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The installation of newly elected President-Elect Martha Pollack and councilors Cynthia Breazeal, Sheila McIlraith, David E. Smith, and Rich Sutton was completed. Retiring Past President Ron Brachman and councilors Oren Etzioni, Lise Getoor, Karen Myers, and Illah Nourbakhsh were thanked for their years of service.

New Business

Tutorial Fee Structure. At the request of the conference committee, Carol Hamilton presented some background on the history of the tutorial fee structure. The most recently model includes a one-time fee for up to 4 consecutive tutorials. The fee is fairly reasonable, especially for students. Attendance at the tutorials is lower than it was prior to the reinstitution of the fee several years ago. The council suggested a conference attendee or member survey to gather feedback on why certain tutorials were not well attended to determine whether topic choice is an equally important issue.

AIIDE-08. Yolanda Gil presented a report on the Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference, now in its third year. Gil noted that the feedback she has received from the games community is that this is a very worthwhile event. She also reported that the organizers took several steps in 2007 to increase participation, including the formation of an executive committee; the inclusion of ten high-profile invited speakers; relocation of the conference to the San Francisco Bay Area; the addition of a "Published Game Track;" and increased advertising. However, the organizers were disappointed in the number of submissions this year, and there are still some challenges in attracting games industry participation. Several suggestions were made about how to better attract industry, including invited papers or collocation with other related conferences. The AIIDE organizers also plan to increase efforts to secure sponsorships. The conference committee recommended that the AIIDE organizers be given two more years to build participation in the conference, which was approved by the Executive Council.

AAAI Publications Access Models
Alan Mackworth reported that the executive committee would like to initiate a review of access models for AAAI publications. Currently, AAAI publications are available through the AAAI Digital Library to all AAAI members. Mike Hamilton gave a brief history of the evolution of online access and a review of current trends in scientific publishing. The Public Knowledge Project Conference, held earlier in July in Vancouver, provided a wealth of information about the challenges that small associations

face in this area. Eric Horvitz proposed the formation of a task force to examine this question more closely and make some recommendations for alternate sustainable models at the next meeting. Horvitz appointed Martha Pollack to chair this task force, and Mike Hamilton, David Leake, Sebastian Thrun, and Dan Weld to serve on the committee. One or two other people may be added.

Federated Conference. Eric Horvitz introduced a brief discussion of the idea of a federated conference model for AI conferences. ACM currently holds this type of conference every three years for the CS community, and Horvitz would like to ascertain the interest level for such a model in the AI community. This could address some of the splintering that has occurred in the past ten years, and create a periodic large venue for all members of the AI community to gather.

Strategic Planning. Ron Brachman and Alan Mackworth reviewed the current status of the Strategic Planning Board, which is made up of all past, current and future known presidents. A meeting was held in Boston, primarily to discuss the name change for AAAI. Brachman noted that there are a number of issues with regard to AAAI's strategic planning that have been discussed, including more continuity in the meetings, more diversity in the membership of the committee, the establishment of an ongoing strategic plan, and an appropriate set of topics for the committee to consider. Mackworth proposed the establishment of a Strategic Planning Working Group to follow up on some of these issues. This proposal was to be discussed at a Strategic Planning Board meeting to be held later in the week. Other suggested topics for the Board were AAAI sponsorship, grand challenge events, undergraduate education, the role of the AAAI conference, government relations, student outreach, and the development of a PBS or NPR series on AI.

Eric Horvitz thanked the council members for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	$ 450,209
Investments - Stated at Fair Market Value (Note 1A & 3)	7,531,342
Accounts Receivable & Other Receivable	2,829
Inventory (Note 1B)	179,617
Prepaid Expenses	26,674
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	8,190,671
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, Net (Note 1C)	19,962
Deposits	5,279
	$ 8,215,912
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	$ 66,632
Funds Held in Trust for Other Organizations	122,286
Unearned Membership Fees (Note 4)	304,687
Other Unearned Revenue	8,388
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	501,993
Net Assets – Unrestricted	7,713,919
	$ 8,215,912

Statement of Financial Position: December 31, 2006

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of this statement.

Independent Auditor's Report

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

I have audited the statement of financial position of American Association for Artificial Intelligence as of December 31, 2006 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, 2006 and the results of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Robert H. Burnham

– Robert H. Burnham
June 27, 2007

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:	
Net Increase in Net Assets	$ 432,176
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Flows From Operations:	
Depreciation Expense	10,019
Net Decrease in Accounts Receivable	2,232
Net Decrease in Inventory	16,264
Net Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	7,144
Net (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	(27,917)
Net Increase in Funds held in trust	29,542
Net (Decrease) in Unearned Membership Fees	(12,419)
Net Increase in Other Unearned Revenue	2,013
Net Unrealized and Realized Gains on Investments	(747,478)
Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	(288,424)
Cash Flow From Investing Activities:	
Purchase of Furnishings & Equipment, Net	(6,784)
Sale of Investments, Net of Purchases of Investments	340,478
Net Cash Flow From Investing Activities	333,694
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	45,270
Cash – January 1, 2006	404,939
Cash – December 31, 2006	$ 450,209

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended December 31, 2006

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of this statement.

Notes to Financial Statements — December 31, 2006

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, 2006.

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, 2006.
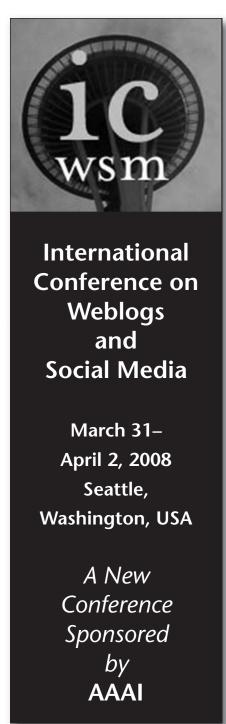
Cost	$ 63,928
Accumulated depreciation	(43,966)
Net	$ 19,962

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 2006 on earnings from sales of mailing lists and advertising.

Note 2: Operations and Name Change

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

Subsequent to the 2006 year-end, American Association for Artificial Intelligence changed its name to Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence.

Changes in Net Assets: Gross Profit (Loss), By Activity:		
AI Magazine Revenue	$ 10,999	
AI Magazine Expenses	(147,902)	$ (136,903)
Memberships Revenue (Note 4)	393,080	
Memberships Expenses	(156,208)	236,872
AAAI Press Revenue	131,954	
AAAI Press Cost of Sales	(121,253)	10,701
Spring Symposium 2006 Revenue	70,095	
Symposium Expenses	(55,641)	14,454
Tutorials '06 Revenue	15,800	
Tutorials Expenses	(28,253)	(12,453)
Fall Symposium '06 Revenue	38,194	
Symposium Expenses	(62,797)	(24,603)
Technical Program '06 Revenue	543,699	
Program Expenses	(458,054)	85,645
Conference Service Fees	8,875	
Conference Service Expenses	(8,875)	-0-
AIIDE '06 Revenue	49,220	
AIIDE '06 Expenses	(61,881)	(12,661)
2006 Exhibits Revenue	26,543	
Exhibits Expenses	(55,259)	(28,716)
Grants/Fellows Revenue	97,995	
Expenses	(155,769)	(57,774)
Prior Year Expenses		(4,481)
KDD Sponsorship		1,469
Interest & Dividend Income (investments & cash accounts)		203,697
Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments (Note 1A)		747,478
Investment Management Fees		(72,500)
Gross Profit, Combined		950,225
Operating Expenses		(518,049)
Net Increase in Net Assets		432,176
Net Assets - January 1, 2006		7,281,743
Net Assets - December 31, 2006		$ 7,713,919

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended December 31, 2006
The accompanying Notes are an integral part of this statement.

Note 3: Investments at December 31, 2006

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.

Investment activity for 2006 is as follows:

Investments — Beginning of year (At fair market value)	$ 7,124,342
Unrealized & Realized gains	747,478
Interest & Dividends (Investments only)	190,663
Total Return on Investments	8,062,483
Purchases of Investments	3,497,933
Sales of Investments	(3,838,411)
Interest & Dividends deposited to Cash	(190,663)
Investments — End of Year	$ 7,531,342

Investments consist of the following at 12-31-2006:

U.S. Obligations & Corp. Fixed Income	$ 2,568,326
Common/Preferred Stocks	4,963,016
Total Investments — Unrestricted	$ 7,531,342

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. The company contributes to individual accounts five percent of their salaries for regular, full-time employees who have worked a minimum of two years at AAAI. In addition, AAAI matches employees' contributions up to five percent of their salaries for regular, full-time employees who have worked a minimum of two years at AAAI.

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 $107,353 for 2007, and $82,313 for 2008.

AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

Each year the AAAI recognizes as Fellows a few individuals who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence. On behalf of the Fellows Selection Committee, we invite you to nominate a member of the AAAI to become a new Fellow.

The Fellows Program, as originally chartered, honors a small percentage of the AAAI membership for providing intellectual leadership and making significant research or service contributions to the field over many years. AAAI Fellowship is a lifetime honor.

The AAAI Fellows program intends to recognize individuals each year who have made outstanding contributions to the theory or practice of AI in industry and government as well as in academia. Both individual technical contributions and significant extended service to the field are considered in the selection process. Fellows from industry or government may have made substantial contributions to either AI research or the championing and adoption of AI technology in industry or government. Evidence of technical contribution will often be in the form of publications, but other forms of evidence include patent awards, notable software, or outstanding contributions to industrial group efforts.

Nominees must be either life members of the Association or current members of AAAI with membership for the past (3) consecutive years. Usually, only members who have contributed to the field for a decade or more after receiving their Ph.D. (or are at an equivalent career stage) will be selected.

Fellows are selected by a Fellows Selection Committee comprising nine current Fellows, and chaired by the Past President of AAAI. One third of the committee members are replaced each year. The policies governing the operation of the Fellows Committee are reviewed by the Executive Council at the spring and summer Council meetings.

If you wish to nominate someone, please complete the nomination form and find two additional people who are willing to write letters of reference. Please direct them to www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php for a copy of the reference form. The nominator or one of the people providing a reference must be a AAAI Fellow who is a current member. The list of AAAI Fellows is also available at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php. References from researchers who are relatively independent of the nominee (that is, not thesis advisors, students, coauthors, or colleagues from the same institution) carry the most weight, as do references that do not merely repeat the content of the nomination. Notes on the forms indicate restrictions on form and length.

Please ensure that your nomination and reference materials arrive at the AAAI office by February 15, 2008. We cannot accept anything received after that date. We will acknowledge receipt of nominations, but the nominee will not be contacted by us, in case you wish to keep the nomination confidential. Final decisions on the candidates will become available after May 1, 2008, and Fellows will be officially welcomed at a dinner for Fellows held at the AAAI-08 conference.

Nominators will be told of the result of the decision for any nomination(s) they made. For an unsuccessful nomination that was submitted, a nominator will have the choice of withdrawing the nomination to wait until a more appropriate time, updating the nomination for the following year with another reference letter or with a revised nomination form to make the case more strongly, or leaving the nomination unchanged for consideration for next year.

Unsuccessful nominations that are not explicitly withdrawn by the nominator will be automatically reconsidered for up to two additional years and then withdrawn.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to send e-mail to hamilton@aaai.org.

AI Crossword Solution (the Puzzle Is on Page 141).