



*William Swartout, 2009  
Robert S. Englemore Memorial  
Lecture Award Winner.*

## 2009 Robert S. Englemore Memorial Lecture Award

The Robert S. Englemore Memorial Lecture Award was established in 2003 to honor Dr. Robert S. Englemore's extraordinary service to AAAI, *AI Magazine*, and the AI applications community, and his contributions to applied AI. The annual keynote lecture is presented at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference. Topics encompass Englemore's wide interests in AI, and each lecture is linked to a subsequent article published upon approval by *AI Magazine*. The lecturer and, therefore, the author for the magazine article, are chosen jointly by the IAAI Program Committee and the Editor-in-Chief of the *AI Magazine*.

AAAI congratulates the 2009 recipient of this award, William Swartout. Swartout was honored for his seminal contributions to knowledge-based systems and explanation, groundbreaking research on virtual human technologies and their applications, and outstanding service to the artificial intelligence community. He presented his talk at the recent Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference in Pasadena, California on Building Virtual Humans: A Decade of

Research. The lecture is available at [videolectures.net](http://videolectures.net).

William Swartout is director of technology for the USC Institute for Creative Technologies. His particular research interests include virtual humans, intelligent agents and the development of new AI architectures. He is a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) and is past chair of the Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence (SIGART) of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). He was program cochair for AAAI-90, and has served as AAAI conference committee chair and on the AAAI Executive Council. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. in computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his bachelor's degree from Stanford University.

## 2009 AI Video Competition Winners

The third annual AI video competition was another great success. Thirty-three videos were accepted, of which 16 were nominated in one or more award categories. Videos were nominated for awards in eight different categories, and winners received a gold Shakey award following the Computers and Thought Lectures at IJCAI-09 in July. Our thanks go to David Aha and Michael Bowling for all their work in pulling off this exciting event in Pasadena.

*Casey's Quest: Transfer Learning for Adversarial Environments* by Philip Moore, Matthew Molineaux, and

Kalyan Gupta (Knexus Research Corporation) won the top award for Best Video, while *WiiGesture*, by Michael Delp and Ricardo Nabinger Sanchez (University of Alberta), won in the Best Short Video category. The Best Student Video award was handed to Motomasa Tomida, Takanobu Tanimoto, and Kiyoshi Hoshino (University of Tsukuba) for *Copypcat Hand for All*. The Best Educational Video award went to *Reinforcement Learning by Example*, by Cosmin Paduraru, Robert West, and Imad Houry (McGill University).

In the innovative category, *The Autonomous City Explorer* by Andrea Bauer, Klaas Klasing, Tingting Xu, Stefan Sosnowski, Georgios Lidoris, Quirin Muhlbauer, Tianguang Zhang, Florian Rohrmuller, Dirk Wollherr, Kolja Kuhnlenz, and Martin Buss (Technische Universitat Munchen) took honors as the Most Innovative Video, while *Robotic Secrets Revealed, Episode 001* by Anthony M. Harrison, Benjamin R. Fransen, Magdalena Bugajska, and J. Gregory Trafton (Naval Research Laboratory) was the winner in the most informative video.

In the audio categories, Best Narration went to *Real Live Robot Learning* by Michael Littman and Kaushik Subramanian (Rutgers University) and Best Sound Track honors were awarded to *How to Cook as Perfect Love Story (with Case-Based Reasoning?)* by Amelie Cordier (Lyon 1 University).

AAAI gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of Google Research, IT University of Copenhagen, Microsoft Research, and Yahoo! Research, as well as technical support from the Jozef Stefan Institute, Nexus



*Ed Feigenbaum Presents the Endowment for the AAAI Feigenbaum Prize to AAAI President Eric Horvitz at the AAAI Annual Business Meeting in Pasadena, CA.*

Research Corporation, and Sebastian Thrun, all of which made this competition possible. Congratulations to all the winners!

## AAAI Announces the Feigenbaum Prize!

AAAI is delighted to announce the establishment of a new award called the

AAAI Feigenbaum Prize. The AAAI Feigenbaum Prize will be awarded biennially to recognize and encourage outstanding Artificial Intelligence research advances that are made by using experimental methods of computer science. The laboratories for the experimental work are real-world domains, and the power of the research results are demonstrated in

those domains. The prize may be given for a sustained record of high-impact seminal contributions to experimental AI research or it may be given to reward singular remarkable innovation and achievement in experimental AI research. The prize of \$10,000 is provided by the Feigenbaum Nii Foundation and is administered by AAAI. Edward Feigenbaum has been a pioneer in AI research as experimental computer science, and in the applications of AI research. For more information about the award, please contact AAAI at [awards10@aaai.org](mailto:awards10@aaai.org) or visit the AAAI website.

AAAI extends its sincere appreciation to Ed Feigenbaum and Penny Nii for their tremendous generosity in creating this award.

## Join Us in Atlanta, Georgia, USA for AAAI-10 and IAAI-10!

The Twenty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-10) and the Twenty-Second Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-10) will be held July 11–15, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Visitors to Atlanta can enjoy major attractions, such as the Georgia Aquarium, the High Museum of Art, Centennial Olympic Park, and the New World of Coke. The city is also home to CNN and a host of cultural and historical attractions, such as the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and the Woodruff Arts Center. The Georgia Institute of Technology has long been a leading center for research in artificial intelligence. Atlanta's airport is the busiest travel hub in the world, and offers direct flights to over 95 cities in 57 countries each day. For more information, please visit [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

AAAI-10 welcomes submissions on mainstream AI topics as well as novel crosscutting work in related areas. Topics include agents, cognitive modeling and human interaction, commonsense reasoning, constraint satisfaction, evolutionary computation, game playing and interactive entertainment, information integration and extraction, knowledge acquisition and ontologies, knowledge representa-

### AAAI-10 / IAAI-10 Deadlines

Please mark these important deadlines on your calendar and consult the website for special program deadlines:

- *October 9, 2009:* AAAI-10 Tutorial proposals due
- *October 9, 2009:* AAAI-10 Workshop proposals due
- *December 1, 2009 – Paper Deadline:* Technical Authors register on the AAAI and IAAI web sites
- *January 18, 2010:* AAAI Electronic abstracts due
- *January 19, 2010:* IAAI Electronic papers due
- *January 21, 2010:* AAAI Electronic papers due
- *March 8-10, 2010:* AAAI Author feedback about initial reviews
- *March 12, 2010:* IAAI Notification of acceptance or rejection
- *March 26, 2010:* AAAI Notification of acceptance or rejection
- *March 29, 2010:* AAAI-10 Workshop submissions due
- *March 30, 2010:* IAAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office
- *April 13, 2010:* AAAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office

tion and reasoning, machine learning and data mining, model-based systems, natural language processing, planning and scheduling, probabilistic reasoning, robotics, search, semantic web, vision and perception (this is not an exhaustive list). AAAI-10 will also include several special tracks, including the Nectar and Senior Member tracks, as well as specific research areas. Call for Papers for the main technical track and other tracks are available at [www.aaai.org/aaai10](http://www.aaai.org/aaai10).

In addition to the main technical program, AAAI-10 will include the tutorial forum, workshop program, video competition, mobile robot program, student abstracts program, the AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium, and an AI Teaching Symposium, to name only a few of the highlights. For complete information on these programs, including Tutorial and Workshop Call for Proposals, please visit the AAAI-10 website ([www.aaai.org/aaai10](http://www.aaai.org/aaai10)) or write to us at [aaai10@aaai.org](mailto:aaai10@aaai.org).

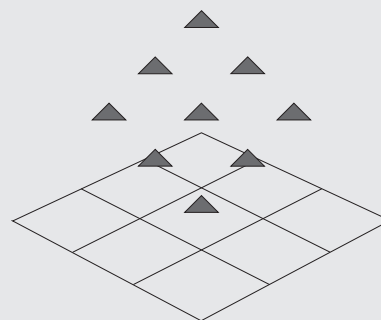
The IAAI-10 conference will use technical papers, invited talks, and panel discussions to explore issues, methods, and lessons learned in the development and deployment of AI applications, and to promote an interchange of ideas between basic and applied AI. IAAI-10 will consider papers in two tracks: (1) deployed application case studies and (2) emerging applications or methodologies. For more information and a full call for papers, please see [www.aaai.org/iaai10.php](http://www.aaai.org/iaai10.php).

The AAAI and IAAI conferences are organized under the direction of AAAI Conference Committee Chair Dieter Fox (University of Washington). The program chairs for AAAI-10 are Maria Fox (University of Strathclyde, UK) and David Poole (University of British Columbia, Canada). The IAAI-10 conference chair is Nestor Rychtyckyj (Ford Motor Company). Daniel Shapiro (ISLE) is the IAAI-10 conference cochair.

We hope to see you in Atlanta next summer!

### Join us for AIIDE-09!

The Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment will be held at Stanford University, October 14–16, 2009.



## AAAI 2010 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI presents the 2010 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday - Wednesday, March 22-24, 2010, at Stanford University. The titles of the seven symposia are

- **AI-D: Artificial Intelligence for Development**  
*Organizers:* Nathan Eagle, Eric Horvitz, and Kentaro Toyama ([ai-d.org](http://ai-d.org))
- **Cognitive Shape Processing**  
*Organizer:* Thomas Barkowsky ([spatial-cognition.de/CSP](http://spatial-cognition.de/CSP))
- **Embedded Reasoning: Intelligence in Embedded Systems**  
*Organizer:* Gabe Hoffman ([era.parc.com/aaai\\_er10](http://era.parc.com/aaai_er10))
- **Intelligent Information Privacy Management**  
*Organizers:* Mary-Anne Williams ([maryanne.williams@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.williams@gmail.com)) and Michael Genesereth
- **It's All in the Timing: Representing and Reasoning about Time in Interactive Behavior**  
*Organizers:* Frank Broz, Marek Michalowski, and Emily Mower ([asimov.usc.edu/~mower/aaai10ss\\_time/](http://asimov.usc.edu/~mower/aaai10ss_time/))
- **Linked Data Meets Artificial Intelligence**  
*Organizers:* Dan Brickley, Vinay K. Chaudhri, Harry Halpin, and Deborah McGuinness ([www.foaf-project.org/events/linkedit](http://www.foaf-project.org/events/linkedit))
- **Using Electronic Tangibles to Promote Learning: Design and Evaluation**  
*Organizers:* Tom Lauwers and Kristen Stubbs ([www.cs.cmu.edu/~AAAI10-ETPL](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~AAAI10-ETPL))

Submissions for the symposia are due on October 2, 2009. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 6, 2009. Material to be included in the working notes of the symposium must be received by January 22, 2010. The complete Call for Participation is available at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss10.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss10.php). Registration information will be available by December 15, 2009. Please contact AAAI at [sss10@aaai.org](mailto:sss10@aaai.org) with any questions.



AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between interactive entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic 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.

AIIDE-09 will include invited speakers, research and industry presentations, project demonstrations, and product exhibits. While traditionally emphasizing commercial computer and video games, we invite researchers and developers to share their insights and cutting-edge results on all topics at the interface of entertainment and artificial intelligence, including serious games, entertainment robotics, and beyond.

Registration information is now available at the AAAI AIIDE-09 website ([www.aaai.org/aiide09](http://www.aaai.org/aiide09)). The late registration deadline is September 25. Registrations will also be accepted onsite at Tresidder Union, 459 Lagunita Drive, on the Stanford Campus.

For more information about registration or hotels in the area, please consult the AAAI website, or write to [aiide09@aaai.org](mailto:aiide09@aaai.org).

## ICWSM-10 to be Held in the Washington, DC Area!

The Fourth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held in the Washington, DC area in May 2010. This interdisciplinary conference brings together researchers and industry leaders interested in creating and analyzing social media. Past conferences have included technical papers from areas such as computer science, linguistics, psychology, statistics, sociology, multimedia and semantic web technologies. A full Call for Papers will be available this fall at [www.icwsm.org](http://www.icwsm.org), and papers will be due in mid-January 2010. As in previous conferences, collections of social-media data will be provided by ICWSM-10 organizers to potential participants to encourage experimenta-

tion on common problems and datasets. For more information, please write to [icwsm10@aaai.org](mailto:icwsm10@aaai.org).

## 2009 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence's 2009 Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 5-7 at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The Symposium Series will be preceded on Wednesday, November 4 by a one-day AI funding seminar. The titles of the seven symposia are Biologically Inspired Cognitive Architectures, Cognitive and Metacognitive Educational Systems, Complex Adaptive Systems and the Threshold Effect: Views from the Natural and Social Sciences, Manifold Learning and Its Applications, Multi-Representational Architectures for Human-Level Intelligence, The Uses of Computational Argumentation, and Virtual Healthcare Interaction.

An informal reception will be held on Thursday, November 5. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Friday, November 6. Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. In addition to invited participants, a limited number of other interested parties will be allowed to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. AAAI technical reports will be distributed to participants in each symposium, and be added to the AAAI Digital Library after the symposium.

The final deadline for registration is September 18, 2009. For registration information, please contact AAAI at [fss09@aaai.org](mailto:fss09@aaai.org) or visit AAAI's web site ([www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss09.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss09.php)). A hotel room block has been reserved at the Westin. The cut-off date for reservations is October 4, 2009. Please call 1-888-627-7076 for further information, or reserve a room online via the link at the AAAI Fall Symposium web page.

## AAAI Executive Council Nominations

Every year four new councilors are elected to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. All elected councilors are expected to attend at least two council meetings per year, and actively participate in AAAI activities. Nominees must be current members of AAAI. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. (Student and library members are not eligible to submit candidates' names.) The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate eight candidates for councilor in the spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI members will vote in the late spring of 2010.

To submit a candidate's names for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, phone number, and email address to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; by fax to 650/321-4457; or by e-mail to [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org). Nominators should contact candidates prior to submitting their names to verify that they are willing to serve, should they be elected. The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2009.

## AAAI Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council meeting was held March 22, 2009, via teleconference. Attending were Eric Horvitz, Martha E. Pollack, Alan Mackworth, Ted Senator, David Aha, Cynthia Breazeal, Claire Cardie, Anthony Cohn, Marie desJardins, Amy Greenwald, Sheila McIlraith, David Musliner, David E. Smith, Rich Sutton, Thomas Sandholm, Holly Yanco, Carol Hamilton, and Mike Hamilton.

*Not Attending:* Yolanda Gil, Gal Kaminka, David Leake, and Michael Pazzani.

Eric Horvitz opened the meeting at 10:30 AM, and a roll call was taken. He welcomed all to the meeting, and said a few words about the recent delibera-

tions of the Executive Committee, including a meeting in December to address the current worldwide economic situation and its impact on AAAI finances. He asked the Council to focus on priorities as we move forward. Horvitz noted that this was the first Council-wide teleconference meeting for AAAI, and that there may be more in the future, possibly using the new technology being developed for small businesses.

A motion to approve the July 2008 minutes was made and, subject to minor edits to be submitted by Tuomas Sandholm and Ted Senator, they were approved and accepted for publication in *AI Magazine*.

### Standing Committee Reports

**Finance:** AAAI Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator reported that AAAI investments had taken a substantial hit and were standing at approximately \$4.9M in mid-February. He reviewed the asset allocation for the investments, and noted that we have instituted a process where the investments are rebalanced every three months to conform to this allocation. He reviewed the budget cuts that were made by the Executive Committee in December 2008, which included staff reductions, suspending student scholarships, less travel to meetings, elimination of certain awards, and other miscellaneous cuts, which will exceed \$300K by 2010 year end. Senator noted that this target was in line with our current policy regarding withdrawals from our operating reserve. The Executive Committee will reassess things in the fall of 2010, with the main goal being to maintain primary programs. The 2009 budget was unanimously approved.

**Awards, Fellows/Nominating:** Past President Alan Mackworth, who serves as chair of these three committees, reported that the Awards Committee is dormant in 2009, as the Classic Paper Award and the Distinguished Service Award are not given in IJCAI years. The Fellows Selection Committee was in the process of reviewing the nominations that arrived in mid-February. Six to ten new fellows will be chosen in April. The Nominating Committee had finalized the list of candidates for councilor, and the President-Elect was

being chosen. Mackworth noted that the four retiring councilors comprise the Nominating Committee each year.

**Conference Outreach:** Sheila McIlraith reported that the initial stumbling blocks for getting conferences to cooperate with AAAI seem to have been overcome through a closer dialogue with prospective conferences about their individual needs. She noted, however, that the list still needs to be expanded and welcomed suggestions from Councilors for new or existing conferences to contact. Approximately 30 conferences were invited to cooperate with AAAI in the fall of 2008. Several conferences now have ongoing cooperation with AAAI, which is automatically renewed each fall. All cooperating conferences are listed on a rotating basis at [www.aaai.org/Meetings/meetings.php](http://www.aaai.org/Meetings/meetings.php).

**Membership:** Holly Yanco reported that membership numbers were starting to show a decline since last summer. The Council discussed ways to attract new members to AAAI and to retain current members. Carol Hamilton noted that 2009 will be particularly difficult because of the fact that no discount will be offered in conjunction with the IJCAI conference registration for AAAI members. Hamilton agreed to follow up on offering a platinum registration for IJCAI-09 preregistrants. Yanco suggested including a pop-up window on the AAAI site that would remind nonmember conference registrants to join AAAI for reduced conference and symposium registration fees. Other suggestions included investigating reciprocal discounts with other societies, or offering reduced rates for new members. Several examples of why people join AAAI could be collected, and highlighted in membership collateral, along with a revised list of AAAI membership benefits. New AAAI initiatives, such as Facebook and LinkenIn could be noted. Mike Hamilton noted that the new OJS system can send out individualized renewal notices, and Carol Hamilton noted that she will investigate this feature further in the fall months. It was agreed that more follow-up on lapsed memberships could be beneficial.

**Publications:** Mike Hamilton

### Save the Date! August 7–11, 2011

For the very first time, the AAAI conference will come to the City by the Bay, just in time to celebrate its 25th anniversary in San Francisco! The Twenty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-11) and the Twenty-Third Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-11) will be held in San Francisco at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, August 7–11, 2011. Please mark your calendars, and visit [www.aaai.org/aaai11](http://www.aaai.org/aaai11) for updates later this year!

thanked David Leake for his ongoing leadership on the *AI Magazine*. The spring issue had just been completed, featuring Alan Mackworth's presidential address, "Agents, Bodies, Constraints, Dynamics, and Evolution." The summer issue will be a special issue on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence. A special issue on creativity is planned for the fall. Tony Cohn noted that the AAAI Press has continued to produce numerous technical reports derived from AAAI workshops and symposia, as well as an ongoing series of proceedings from the AAAI, IAAI, AIIDE, ICWSM, IJCAI, ICAPS, FLAIRS and KR. All new projects are being put immediately into the Open Journal System (OJS) system, and the conversion of older volumes to this system continues. The OJS system allows greater management of the submission process, reporting functions, creation of reading tools, and semiautomatic porting to the OJS digital library. Cohn also mentioned that the Press is working with members of the HRI community on a working model for the HRI Journal, which was approved last summer by the Publica-

tions Committee, and will launch through the OJS system. Cohn noted that good proposals for the Press are always welcome. Council members inquired into the current arrangement with MIT Press, which Mike Hamilton reported automatically renews on an annual basis. MIT has provided the marketing and distribution end of the publishing process, and has been a full partner in the selection of manuscripts. The Council asked Hamilton to investigate MIT's current plans as well as possible options at comparable university presses.

*Conference:* Carol Hamilton reported that the contract for AAAI-11 was signed in December of 2008, and the conference will be held in San Francisco. AAAI-10 will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. The IAAI-09 conference received 49% more papers for review than in 2008, and consequently accepted a larger number. It is likely that they will have 32 accepted submissions. The program committee met via a series of teleconferences, rather than in their traditional face-to-face meeting in Palo Alto. The calls were broken down into several subcommittees over a period of 2-3 days, and then a full committee meeting was held for several hours on the final day. The conference will also feature three invited speakers. The AIIDE-08 conference in October attracted over twice as many papers as in 2007, and the conference was well attended at Stanford University. Preparations for 2009 are well underway, and paper submissions are due on April 14. Hamilton is working with Chris Darken on the sponsorship program. ICWSM-09 saw a dramatic increase in the number of full papers submitted, and consequently, has accepted a larger number of poster papers for presentation. The conference also includes a data challenge workshop, two tutorials, and three invited speakers. Unfortunately, sponsorships are difficult to come by this year, so this could impact the final financial picture for this conference. The Council asked that formal guidelines for AAAI conferences be drawn up, and that AAAI appear in the name of conferences owned by AAAI, such as AIIDE and ICWSM. Eric Horvitz reported that Yolanda Gil will be stepping

down as Conference Chair, and that he is in the process of selecting a new Conference Chair to take over for her. This will be accomplished by May so the new chair can recruit program chairs for 2010.

*Symposium:* Holly Yanco reported that attendance at the Fall 2008 was slightly smaller than in 2007. The 2009 Fall Symposium, to be held in the same location in Arlington, Virginia, will experiment with a shift in day pattern to Thursday (Wednesday, including the AI Funding Seminar) through Saturday. In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to retain attendees over Saturday night, and some organizers have even ended their symposia Saturday afternoon. Registration is also up for the Spring 2009 meeting, although this is in large part due to the addition of one more symposium. Submissions for the 2010 Spring Symposium Series will be due April 17.

## Ongoing Business

*CRA Report:* Marie desJardins reported that Tom Kalil from Obama's Presidential Transition Team spoke at the CRA Leadership Summit about "Science Priorities in the New Administration." Obama has stated an intention to "restore integrity to science research and funding." DARPA will move towards "revolutionary" and away from near-term (12-18 month) results. The research community needs to step up and send their top people to serve as program managers. Peter Lee (CMU) and a number of other leaders in the CS community are putting together a proposal to use some of the stimulus funding for a short-term postdoc program that would "soften the landing" for current students who will be graduating during one of the tightest job markets in memory. Jeannette Wing (NSF) talked about a series of workshops called "Computational Thinking for Everyone" that is focused on how to broaden the notion of "CS education," particularly in the K-12 curriculum. Jan Cuny (NSF) reported on a new effort to rethink the high school AP CS curriculum, with a target date of 2014. The current AP course doesn't appeal to women or minorities, and is also not viewed positively by most

university faculty because it focuses only on programming syntax, without introducing fundamental concepts of computational thinking. The CRA Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research continues to sponsor numerous activities to support and encourage the participation of women in computing. The next research CRA-W Career Mentoring Workshop will be held in July, co-located with IJCAI-09.

*AI Topics and AI Archive:* Eric Horvitz reported that Bruce Buchanan and Reid Smith have continued to work on the AI Topics site, redesigning it into a wiki format. Unfortunately, due to ongoing health problems, former AI Topics editor Jon Glick is unlikely to return. Horvitz is currently investigating the possibility of restructuring the administration of the site into an editorial board and is actively seeking an editor-in-chief, who will then work with a large editorial board to maintain the various subject areas of the site. Everyone agreed that AI Topics has developed into a very useful tool and thanked Glick, Buchanan, and Smith for all their efforts thus far. As part of the AI Topics redesign, Buchanan has introduced a reference to video archives in the AI field. During this process, the subject of the role that AAAI should play in the video archival process has been raised. Horvitz moved to create a task force to study this issue during the next few months, and report back to the Council. Martha Pollack will chair this committee, and Bruce Buchanan, Claire Cardie, and Carol Hamilton will serve on the committee. On a related issue, Ed Feigenbaum has been working with the Computer Museum on a timeline for AI, and may have input on archival issues as well.

*AAAI Presidential Panel:* Eric Horvitz reported that approximately 25 AI researchers gathered in February at Asilomar as part of the AAAI Presidential Panel on Long-Term AI Futures. The panel was commissioned to explore and address potential long-term influences of AI research and development covering social, legal, and technical issues. The participants were divided into three subgroups: on concerns, control and guidelines, the



## Visit AAAI on Facebook and LinkedIn

AAAI recently launched a presence on both Facebook and LinkedIn. We invite all interested individuals to check out the Facebook site by searching for AAAI. If you are a current member of AAAI, you can also join us on LinkedIn. We welcome your feedback on these new initiatives at [info09@aaai.org](mailto:info09@aaai.org).

nature and timing of disruptive advances, and ethical and legal issues. Horvitz noted that the discussion was extremely interesting, and that he will be working with the group subchairs to write a technical report.

**IJCAI-09:** Carol Hamilton reported that IJCAI received 1,291 submissions, which are currently out for review. Final decisions will be mailed on March 31. The program committee had four tiers: Program Chair, 22 Area Chairs, 92 Senior Program Committee members, and almost 700 Program Committee members. Six invited speakers have been selected, as well 19 tutorials, 35 workshops, and a doctoral consortium. There is a full exhibit and competition program, including robots, poker, general game playing, trading agents, and videos. On the last day of the conference, Industry Day will be held as a parallel session, offering representatives from industry an opportunity to tell their stories. Several colocated programs will be held, including IAAI, a CRA-W workshop, SMC-IT' 2009, and ICLP'09, among others. Social events will be held at the nearby Caltech Athenaeum and the California Science Center in Los Angeles. Hamilton and Rich Doyle, IJCAI-09 Local Arrangements Chair, have been working closely on the sponsorship program, and it is hoped that the goal of \$100K in unrestricted sponsorships will be met.

**Publications Open Access:** Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI publications were opened up for full content access on January 1, 2009. This included all proceedings and technical reports. Access to *AI Magazine* remains a membership benefit. As noted in other reports, the contents of the library will continue to be ported to the OJS system. In addition, AAAI will follow up with lapsed members in fall 2009 to see if open access played a role in their decision to not renew their membership. Hamilton noted that AAAI will continue to encourage support for the open access initiative through memberships and special gifts to AAAI. Martha Pollack thanked Mike Hamilton and Carol Hamilton for accomplishing this so quickly.

### New Business

**Feigenbaum Award:** Eric Horvitz announced that Ed Feigenbaum has offered to endow a new AAAI award

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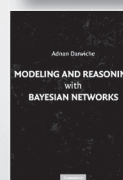
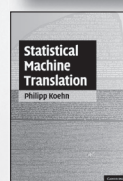
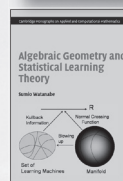
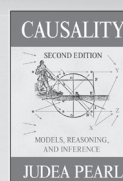
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**Important Dates**

Paper Submission: Nov. 23, 2009  
Author Notification: Jan. 22, 2010  
Camera-Ready Copy: Feb. 22, 2010

## 23<sup>rd</sup> International FLAIRS Conference

The Shores Resort & Spa  
Daytona Beach, Florida  
May 19-21, 2010

The 23rd International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-23) will be held May 19-21, 2010 at the Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach, Florida, USA. FLAIRS-23 continues a tradition of presenting and discussing artificial intelligence research in a convivial atmosphere within a beautiful setting. Events will include invited speakers, special tracks, discussion panels, and presentations of papers and posters. In addition to a Best Paper award, there will be a Best Student Paper award for the best paper first-authored by a student. The conference is hosted by the Florida Artificial Intelligence Research Society in cooperation with AAAI.

Topics of interest are in all areas of AI, including but not limited to:

- **Foundations:** Knowledge Representation, Cognitive Modeling, Perception, Reasoning & Programming, Search, Learning
- **Architectures:** Agents and Distributed AI, Intelligent User Interfaces, Natural Language Systems, Information Retrieval, Robotics
- **Applications:** Aviation and Aerospace, Education, Entertainment, Medicine, Management and Manufacturing, World Wide Web
- **Implications:** Philosophical Foundations, Social Impact and Ethics, Evaluation of AI Systems, Teaching AI
- **Special Tracks:** Numerous special tracks offer opportunities for focused interaction. Special tracks are an integral part of the conference with papers published in the conference proceedings. See the web site for specific topics.

<http://www.flairs-23.info/>

In cooperation with the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

that will recognize outstanding experimental research in AI. The award is likely to be given every two years in non-IJCAI years, and will include a \$10,000 prize. It is hoped that the first award will be given in 2010. Horvitz will work with Feigenbaum to craft the description of the award during the next few months and will bring this back to the Council for review at the summer meeting.

The Council agreed that a subcommittee of the current Awards Committee should be formed to administer this award; Alan Mackworth will review this idea and make a proposal to the Council at the summer meeting. The Council extended their sincere thanks to Ed Feigenbaum and Penny Nii for this generous gift.

**Bylaws Proposal:** Ted Senator reviewed a proposal before the Council to revise the AAAI bylaws in order to do two things: First, *Enable the President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, to form committees for special projects.* These committees would not have the authority of the Council; their authority would be limited to studying issues and making recommendations to the Executive Council or to implementing decisions of the Executive Council; and second, (a) *Remove Program Committee as a Committee of the Council* and (b) *Add Symposium Committee as a Committee of the Council.* The purpose of these proposed changes is to update the AAAI Committee structure to facilitate the effective and efficient operations of the Association and to reflect the sponsorship of multiple conferences (rather than just a single Annual Conference). Before a final vote, the Council asked Senator to have the AAAI lawyer review the proposal. Carol Hamilton will follow up, and the proposal will be reviewed again at the summer meeting.

**Government Affairs Committee:** Eric Horvitz noted that several people had approached him with the idea that AAAI should be better prepared to respond to issues as they come up with funding agencies. He proposed the formation of a Government Affairs (or Public Policy) Committee that would serve as a contact point for these types of requests. However, all agreed that further investigation needed to be done to define the charter and mission of this committee before any action was taken.

**Social Networks and AAAI:** Eric Horvitz reported that AAAI has launched a presence on Facebook and on LinkedIn. Currently, the members of the Executive Committee serve as the administrators. Horvitz would like to explore more thoroughly how AAAI might use social networking to reach a broader audience and welcomed thoughts and input from Council members.

Before adjourning, Horvitz asked for feedback on the teleconference format of the meeting. Some people suggested that shorter, more frequent meetings might be beneficial. Also, if teleconferences are going to continue, it was agreed that a better process for discussion should be implemented. Others emphasized the importance of face-to-face meetings at least once a year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.