AAAI News

Summer News from the American Association for Artificial Intelligence

AAAI-98

Content-rich with traditions plus new additions … This year's Fifteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, (AAAI-98) offers a program as content-rich and varied as the field of AI itself. In keeping with tradition, there is a strong technical program of 144 papers spanning a wide range of fertile AI ground. Invited speakers this year will cover topics as diverse as AI in medicine in the twenty-first century, an AI program that writes Bachlike music, the limits of current approaches in natural language processing, Bayesian networks, machine learning, and the anthropomorphism of computers. Branching out into new territory, there will also be a panel of science fiction authors spinning tales and lessons of AI in the future.

The conference, held in Madison, Wisconsin from July 26–30, 1998, will also be host to the ever-popular robot competition. This years contest will include two popular events from last year: The first event is Hors d'Oeuvres Anyone? in which mobile robot-waiters serve food to conference attendees. Also back is Find Life on Mars, a more traditional test of navigation, task planning, and mapping. For robots that do not fit into the competition, there will once again be a robot exhibition venue. Last year this event was host to inventions such as a wheel chair driven by eye movement and a hopping leg. Attendees can expect breath-taking innovations again this year.

The Tenth Innovative Applications of AI Conference (IAAI-98) will interleave with the main technical conference this year. This conference has traditionally focused on fully deployed applications of AI with significant payback. This year, there are a number of strong award-winning applications. In addition, the showcase for emerging areas of AI technology and applications will continue for its second year. This track points to promising new areas and next-generation systems. The innovative applications conference is intended not only for those involved in applications but also for researchers who might gain a better understanding of the applications side of the AI equation.

AAAI-98 will also see the premier of the new Intelligent Systems Demonstrations. These demos will give conference attendees a chance to interact with amazing and intriguing innovations, such as AI pets, systems that respond to human speech and gestures, AI World Wide Web creatures, and an intelligent classroom.

The Hall of Champions will also return this year, pitting the best AI-based game-playing computers against human champions in backgammon, Scrabble, Bridge, Go and Poker. The three-day matches in Backgammon and Scrabble may well be long enough to determine once and for all whether computer programs have now exceeded the abilities of the best human players in these games. Conference attendees will also have plenty of time to sit down and play these electronic opponents.

As if all the above weren't enough, the Robot Building Lab is back, giving attendees the opportunity to assemble and program their own small robots. The event culminates in a competition between participating teams. This year's Exhibit of AI vendors, consultants, and publishers will give attendees an interesting place to browse. The Student Abstract and Poster sessions will provide a forum for some of the upcoming young AI talent to show its ideas and work.

Further, eight organizations are holding their meetings contiguous with AAAI-98, spanning inductive logic programming, genetic programming, genetic algorithms, computational learning, machine learning, uncertainty in AI, text and discourse, and cognitive science.

AAAI-98 is truly a multithreaded event. This year, the organizers have paid special attention to scheduling to minimize conflicts. It is the organizers hope that with the content-rich conference, attendees will not be forced into either/or decisions as they schedule their time.

Once again this year, AAAI-98 will show AI's vitality and inspiration as it points the way toward what computers are becoming.

For further information, visit the conference web site at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/1998/.

KDD-98

The Fourth International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (held August 27–31, 1998, in New York, New York) addresses the science and technology of automated discovery, drawing from the fields of statistics, databases, machine learning, data visualization, high performance computing, knowledge acquisition, and knowledge-based systems. Besides scientific and technical contributions from the latest research and applications, this year's program will also feature free tutorials given by leading experts, demonstrations by leading tool vendors, and several invited talks summarizing the state of the art and looking toward the future. The field's interdisciplinary nature facilitates the cross-fertilization of ideas. Consequently, this summer KDD-98 will be collocated at the Marriott Marquis in New York City with the 24th Annual International Conference on Very Large Databases (VLDB '98), August 24–27.

For further information, visit the KDD-98 web site at www.aaai.org/Conferences/KDD/1998/.

AAAI-98 and KDD-98 Registration

Registration materials for the Fifteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-98) and the Tenth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-98), as well as the Fourth International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD-98), are available from the AAAI office at ncai@aaai.org or on the AAAI web site (www.aaai. org). For further information, please call AAAI at 650-328-3123. The late registration deadline for AAAI-98/IAAI-98 is June 24, 1998. The late registration deadline for KDD-98 is July 31, 1998.

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence will be held at 12:45 PM, Thursday, July 30, 1998 in the Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin. Please remember to return your AAAI ballot to the AAAI office no later than June 19, 1998.

AAAI Councilor Nominations

Every two years, the AAAI membership elects an individual to serve a two-year term as President-Elect, followed by two years as President, and, finally, two years as immediate Past President. In addition, every year four new councilors are elected to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate one candidate for President-Elect and eight candidates for councilor in the spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI members will vote in the late spring of 1999.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; by fax to 650-321-4457; or by email to hamilton@aaai.org. Nominators should contact candidates prior to submitting their names to verify that they are willing to serve, should they be elected. The deadline for nominations is November 1, 1998.

1998 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The 1998 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday-Sunday, October 23-25, at the Omni Rosen Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The topics of the eight symposia will be:

- Artificial Intelligence and Link Analysis. *Chair:* David Jensen (jensen@cs.umass.edu)
- Cognitive Robotics. *Chair:* De Giacomo, Giuseppe (degiacomo@dis.uniroma1.it)
- Distributed Continual Planning. *Chair:* Marie desJardins (marie@erg.sri.com)
- Emotional and Intelligent: The Tangled Knot of Cognition. *Chair:* Dolores Canamero (lola@arti.vub.ac.be)
- Formalizing Reasoning with Visual and Diagrammatic Representations. *Chair:* Bernd Meyer (bernd.meyer@acm.org)
- Integrated Planning for Autonomous Agent Architectures. *Cochairs:* Glenn Wasson (wasson@virginia.edu) and Gabe Ferrer (ferrer@virginia.edu)
- Planning with Partially Observable Markov Decision Processes. *Chair:* Michael Littman (mlittman@cs.duke.edu)
- Robots & Biology: Developing Connections. *Chair:* Barbara Webb (Barbara.Webb@nottingham.ac.uk)

Symposia will be limited to forty to sixty participants each. In addition to invited participants, a limited number of other interested parties will be able to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. Complete registration and hotel information will be available in July by request from fss@aaai.org or on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/symposia. html. Invited participants must register by September 9, and the final registration deadline is September 23. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Omni Rosen is September 24, 1998. The discounted single or double room rate of $139.00 per night will not be available after this date. Please call the Omni Rosen at 800-800-9840 or 407-354-9840 for reservations, and be sure to identify yourself as an attendee at the American Association for Artificial Intelligence Fall Symposium Series.
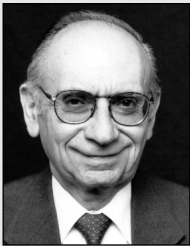
1999 Spring Symposium Series

The 1999 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 22–24, 1999, at Stanford University. The Call for Participation will be available in July on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/1999/) and will be mailed to all AAAI members.

AAAI-99

AAAI is pleased to announce that the Sixteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-99) and the Eleventh Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Program (IAAI-99) will be held in Orlando, Florida from July 18-22, 1999. The AAAI-99 Call for Participation will be published this summer and will be available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/1999/. The program cochairs for AAAI-99 are James Hendler, University of Maryland (hendler@cs.umd.edu), and Devika Subramanian, Rice University (devika@cs.rice.edu). For further information, please contact AAAI at 650-328-3123 or by e-mail at ncai@aaai.org.

Congratulations to the 1998 AAAI Fellows!

Each year a small number of fellows are recognized for their unusual distinction in the profession and for their sustained contributions to the field for a decade or more. An official dinner and ceremony will be held in their honor at AAAI-98 in Madison, Wisconsin.
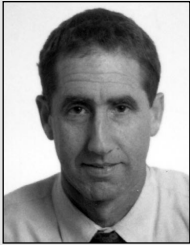
George A. Bekey
University of Southern California

For contributions to the theory and practice of intelligent robotics, with applications to health care, space technology, and human service
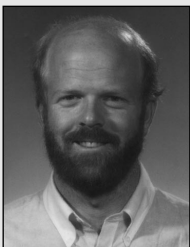
Steven Minton
USC/Information Sciences Institute

For contributions to machine learning, planning, and constraint satisfaction and for service to the AI community

Yoav Shoham
Stanford University

For fundamental contributions concerning logics of time, knowledge, and belief that have resulted in significant advances in reasoning about time and change

David E. Wilkins
SRI International

For contributions to both the theory and application of planning, especially for efficient, flexible ways of representing and reasoning about actions.

Important AAAI Conference Dates

June 24, 1998

■ AAAI-98 Student Housing Form Due
■ AAAI-98 Late Registration Due

July 30, 1998

■ AAAI Annual Business Meeting: 12:45 PM

July 31, 1998

■ KDD-98 Late Registration Due
■ AAAI–98 / IAAI–98 Conference

August 27-31, 1998

■ KDD-98 Conference

October 23–25, 1998

■ AAAI-98 Fall Symposia

November 1, 1998

■ Nominations due for AAAI Councilor and President-elect.

March 22-24, 1999

■ AAAI-99 Spring Symposia

July 18–22, 1999

■ AAAI-99 Conference

Independent Auditor's Report

Robert H. Burnham, CPA

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

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the statement of financial position of American Association for Artificial Intelligence as of December 31, 1997 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. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we 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. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our 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, 1997 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, CPA

February 20, 1998

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1997

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Method of Accounting:

The financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

Effective for 1996 the Association has changed its method of accounting for investments from "original cost" to "fair market value" as required by the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 124. The cumulative effect of the change in accounting principle from prior years was shown as an extraordinary item on the statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 1996. Since investments are stated at fair market value realized and unrealized gains and losses are combined on the statement of activities where in years prior to 1996 only realized gains and losses were shown.

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, 1997.

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, 1997.

Cost	$ 297,685
Accumulated depreciation	(255,615)
Net	$ 42,070

D. Income Taxes:

American Association for Artificial Intelligence is exempt from income taxes on its earning from investments and its exempt function operations

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 1997

Assets

Current Assets:

Cash & Equivalents	$ 315,696
Investments—Stated at Fair Market Value (Note 1A & 3)	10,164,240
Accounts Receivable - Trade	18,981
Inventory	274,052
Prepaid Expenses & Advances	13,035
Prepaid Expenses - Future Events	75,919
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	10,861,923
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, Net (Note 1-C)	42,070
Deposits	5,279
	$10,909,272

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	$ 65,767
Unearned Membership Fees (Note 4)	226,114
Unearned Revenue	11,762
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	303,643
Net Assets - Unrestricted	10,605,629
	$10,909,272

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:

Net Increase in Net Assets	$1,324,812
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to	
Net Cash Flows From Operations:	
Depreciation Expense	22,335
Net Increase in Accounts Receivable	(3,192)
Net Increase in Inventory	(8,570)
Net Increase in Prepaid Expenses	(31,516)
Net Increase in Accounts Payable	17,576
Net Decrease in Amounts Due to Other Organizations	(43,992)
Net Increase in Unearned Membership Fees	3,246
Net Increase in Unearned Revenue	11,762
Net Unrealized and Realized Gains on Investments	(1,521,322)
Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities	(228,861)

Cash Flow From Investing Activities:

Purchase of Furnishings & Equipment	(16,405)
Sale of Investments, Net of Purchases of Investments	219,720
Net Cash Flow From Investing Activities	203,315
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash & Equivalents	(25,546)
Cash and Equivalents—January 1, 1997	341,242
Cash and Equivalents—December 31, 1997	$ 315,696

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 1997 on earnings from sales of mailing lists and advertising.

Note 2: Operations

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) was formed in 1979 as a scientific society, to encourage the basic knowledge of what constitutes intelligent thought and behavior and how it can be exhibited in computers. This is accomplished by the *AI Magazine,* the publications of the AAAI Press, the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), the Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI), the International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, the Mobile Robot Competition, the Symposium Series, and the AAAI Workshop Program. In addition, AAAI has an extensive program for student scholarships, women and minority grants, 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.

For AAAI-98 Conference Information, Point Your Browser to

www.aaai.org Conferences/ National/ 1998/

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997

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

AI Magazine Revenue (Note 4)	$ 25,406	
AI Magazine Expenses	(192,683)	$ (167,277)
Memberships Revenue (Note 4)	318,425	
Memberships Expenses	(119,262)	199,163
AAAI Press Revenue	215,314	
AAAI Press Cost of Sales	(155,989)	59,325
Spring Symposium '97 Revenue	77,027	
Symposium Expenses	(50,038)	26,989
Fall Symposium '97 Revenue	48,335	
Symposium Expenses	(60,826)	(12,491)
Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining Revenue	204,595	
Conference Expenses	(145,183)	59,412
AAAI '97 Revenue	294,659	
AAAI '97 Expenses	(329,309)	(34,650)
'97 Tutorials Revenue	44,620	
Tutorials Expenses	(60,045)	(15,425)
'97 Exhibits Revenue	28,150	
Exhibits Expenses	(27,284)	866
Royalty Income & Reprint Permissions	1,185	
Interest & Dividend Income	380,641	
Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments (Note 1A)	1,521,322	
Investment Management Fees	(93,963)	
Grants & Scholarships Expended	(233,928)	
Miscellaneous & Other, Net	197	
Gross Profit, Combined	1,691,366	
Operating Expenses	(366,554)	
Net Increase in Net Assets	1,324,812	
Net Assets—January 1, 1997	9,280,817	
Net Assets—December 31, 1997	$10,605,629	

Note 3: Investments at December 31, 1997

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 1997 is as follows:

Investments - Beginning of year (At fair market value)	$ 8,862,637
Unrealized & Realized Gains	1,521,322
Interest & Dividends	350,603
Total Return On Investments	1,871,925
Purchases of Investments	4,900,162
Sales of Investments	(5,119,882)
Interest & Dividends deposited to Cash & Equivalents	(350,603)
Investments - End of Year	$10,164,239

Investments consist of the following at 12-31-97:

U.S. Treasury Notes	$ 3,265,637
U.S. Guaranteed Mortgages	171,495
Common Stocks	6,727,107
Total Investments - Unrestricted	$10,164,239

Note 4: Memberships

Annual membership in the American Association for Artificial Intelligence is $50 for individuals, $20 for student members, and $75 for library subscriptions. Twenty-five dollars is added to the above for other than U.S. and Canadian 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.

For KDD–98 Conference Information, Point Your Browser to

www.aaai.org Conferences/ KDD/ 1998/

Erratum

Kirk Wilson's article, "ChemReg: Using Case-Based Reasoning to Support Health and Safey Compliance in the Chemical Industry" (Volume 19, No. 1, of *AI Magazine,* Spring 1998), contains an error on page 48. The text reads, "This goal would have to be reached while it retained 10-percent compliance with the regulations."

The sentence should read: "This goal would have to be reached while it retained 100-percent compliance with the regulations." The electronic version has been corrected on AAAI's web site. *AI Magazine* regrets the error.