AAAI News

*Spring News from the American Association
for Artificial Intelligence*

AAAI Announces New Awards!

AAAI is pleased to announce the establishment of two new awards, to be presented annually at the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (except in years when the International Joint Conference for Artificial Intelligence is held in North America).

The 1999 AAAI Influential Paper Award

This award will honor the author(s) of paper(s) deemed most influential, chosen from a specific conference year. The 1999 award will be given to the most influential paper(s) from the First National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1980 at Stanford University, Stanford, California. Each year, thereafter, the time period considered will advance by one year.

Papers will be judged on the basis of impact, for example
- Started a new research (sub)area
- Led to important applications
- Answered a long-standing question-issue or clarified what had been murky
- Made a major advance that figures in the history of the subarea
- Has been picked up as important and used by other areas within (or outside) AI
- Has been cited heavily

Candidacy is not limited to AAAI members or to people still active in AI. Posthumous awards will be considered. The AAAI Awards Committee is reviewing nominations, which were due March 15, 1999, and their recommendation will be approved by the AAAI president.

The author(s) of the award-winning paper(s) will receive a $2000 prize (shared if more than one author) as well as lodging and travel to the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

AAAI Distinguished Service Award

This award will recognize one individual each year for extraordinary service to the AI community. Areas of service could include, but are not limited to, society service; service as an editor, conference organizer, representative of AI in other organizations (for example, CRA, ACM, IEEE); or influential service as a government agency contract monitor or program director, resulting in positive effects on the field of AI. Nominees must be current members of AAAI.

The AAAI Awards Committee is reviewing nominations, which were due March 15, 1999, and their final recommendation will be approved by the AAAI president.

The winner will receive a $2000 prize as well as lodging and travel to the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

For more information regarding these awards, please contact Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, at hamilton@aaai.org, or call 650-328-3123.

AAAI-99

Registration information for the Sixteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-99) will be available in March by writing to ncai@aaai.org or at www.aaai.org/ Conferences/National/1999/aaai-iaai99.html. Copies of the AAAI-99 registration brochure are being mailed to all AAAI members. Please note that the deadline for early registrations is May 19, 1999.

The conference will be held July 18–22, 1999, at the Omni Rosen Hotel and the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. The conference will feature 12 tutorials, 17 workshops, the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence, the Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, the Intelligent Systems Demonstrations, the Robot-Building Laboratory, and the Doctoral Consortium. An exciting invited talk program has already been formed, highlighted by two keynote addresses: (1) "Why I Am Optimistic" by Patrick Winston, Ford Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and (2) "AI Rising" by Nils J. Nilsson, Kumagai Professor, Emeritus, at Stanford University.

Plan to Bring the Whole Family!

AAAI is happy to announce its sponsorship of the CHIKids program during AAAI-99. This program, which provides child care for conference attendees' children, first started two years ago at the SIGCHI-96. It combines traditional child care with creative and educational opportunities to use technology for an extended period of time. Children, ages 7 and up, can participate in a variety of activities, including the Newsroom, the Multimedia Storytelling area, and the Technology Workouts/CD-ROM Field trips. This program, combined with a host of family entertainment in Orlando, makes AAAI-99 the perfect destination for a family vacation.

Please check the AAAI web site for all the details and deadlines for these programs as well as announcements about other new features.

Collocated Conferences in Orlando

AAAI is delighted to announce the collocation in Orlando of the following AI-related events:
- 1999 Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO-99) A Joint Meeting of the Eighth International Conference on Genetic Algorithms (ICGA-99) and the

- Fourth Annual Genetic Programming Conference (GP-99)
Omni Rosen Hotel, Orlando, Florida
July 14–17, 1999
www-illigal.ge.uiuc.edu/gecco/
- Sixth International Workshop on Agent Theories, Architectures, and Languages (ATAL-99)
July 15–17, 1999
www.elec.qmv.ac.uk/dai/atal

AAAI-99 Student Programs

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Abstract and Poster Program, the SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Consortium, and the AAAI Scholarship and Volunteer Programs. Students interested in attending the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Orlando, July 18–22, 1999, should consult the AAAI web site for further information about all these programs at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/student.html.

The Scholarship Program provides partial travel support and complimentary technical program registration for students who (1) are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; (2) are members of AAAI; (3) submit papers to the technical program or letters of recommendation from their faculty adviser; and (4) submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 15, 1999. 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 scholarships@aaai.org or 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, 650-328-3123.

All student scholarship recipients will be required to participate in the Student Volunteer Program to support AAAI organizers in Orlando. The Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference, and student participation is a valuable contribution.

Students not requiring travel assistance should only apply for the Volunteer Program, which provides complimentary registration to full-time students, including conference proceedings, in exchange for assisting AAAI-99 organizers in Orlando. This program does not provide any scholarship funds and is designed for local students or students who have other sources for travel funds. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at volunteer@aaai.org or the 1999 Volunteer Coordinator, Thomas Haynes, at thomas@adept.cs.twsu.edu. The deadline for volunteer applications is May 31, 1999.

AAAI Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mail for your AAAI ballot, which will be mailed to all regular AAAI members in late April. The membership will vote for four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. Ballots will be due back at the AAAI office no later than June 4. The Annual Business Meeting for AAAI will be held this summer during AAAI-99 in Orlando, Florida. The exact day and time will be announced on the ballot, in the summer issue of the magazine, and in the conference program.

1999 Fall Symposium Series

The 1999 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 5–7, 1999, at the Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. The topics of the five symposia in the 1999 Fall Symposia Series are

- Modal and Temporal Logics–Based Planning for Open Networked Multimedia Systems
Chair: Fawzi Daoud (daoud@cs.toronto.edu)
- Narrative Intelligence
Cochairs: Michael Mateas (michaelm @cs.cmu.edu) and Phoebe Sengers (phoebe@zkm.de)
- Question-Answering Systems
Cochairs: Vinay K. Chaudhri (vinay @ai.sri.com) and Richard Fikes (fikes @hpp.stanford.edu)
- Psychological Models of Communication in Collaborative Systems
Chair: David Traum (traum@cs.umd.edu)
- Using Layout for the Generation, Understanding, or Retrieval of Documents
Chair: Donia Scott (Donia.Scott@itri.brighton.ac.uk)

The deadline for submissions is March 31, 1999. The Call for Participation has been sent to all AAAI members and is posted on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/1999/fssparticipation-99.html.

2000 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI is currently accepting proposals for the 2000 Spring Symposium Series, to be held at Stanford University, California, March 20–22, 2000.

Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for the 2000 Spring Symposium Series. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Committee (Chair: Ian Horswill, Northwestern University; Cochair: Dan Clancy, NASA Ames Research Center; and Associate Chair: Leslie Pack Kaelbling, Brown University). Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than April 15, 1999. The Call for Proposals has been sent to all AAAI members and is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2000/sssproposals-00.pdf.

Please submit (preferably by electronic mail) your symposium proposals, and inquiries concerning symposia, to

Ian Horswill
AAAI Symposium Chair
Computer Science Department
Northwestern University
ian@cs.nwu.edu
Voice: +1 (847) 467-1256
Fax: +1 (847) 491-5258

AAAI-2000

AAAI is pleased to announce that the Seventeenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-2000) and the Twelfth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Program (IAAI-2000) will be held in Austin, Texas, from July 30–August 3, 2000. The Call for Participation will be published this summer and will be available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/ncai.html.

AAAI-98 Robot Video

Video proceedings of the AAAI-98 Mobile Robot Exhibition are now available from AAAI for $25.00. The tape includes 11 five-minute segments submitted by leading researchers from around the world and a compilation of live robot footage taken at the conference. The table of contents is available at www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/AAAI/1998/robotvideo98.html.

Order forms are available at the previous URL or by writing to orders@aaai.org. Many thanks to Tucker Balch of Carnegie Mellon University for all his work on this project!

AAAI Member News

AAAI wishes to congratulate the winners of IJCAI's 1999 awards program. The winner of the 1999 IJCAI Award for Research Excellence is Judea Pearl, professor in the Computer Science Department at the University of California at Los Angeles. Pearl is recognized for his fundamental work on heuristic search, reasoning under uncertainty, and causality. He will deliver a lecture entitled "Reasoning with Cause and Effect" on the evening of August 5, 1999.

The winner of the 1999 IJCAI Computers and Thought Award is Nicholas R. Jennings, professor in the Department of Electronic Engineering at the Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, United Kingdom. Jennings is recognized for his contributions to practical agent architectures and his applied work in the field of multiagent systems. He will deliver a lecture entitled "Agent-Based Computing: Promise and Perils" on the evening of August 3, 1999.

At IJCAI-99, the Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award will be given to Wolfgang Bibel, professor of Intellectics in the Department of Computer Science at the Darmstadt Institute of Technology in Germany. As a pioneering researcher in automated deduction, Bibel is recognized for his outstanding contributions and service to the international AI community, including his creation of ECCAI, which has operated since 1982 as an umbrella organization for 27 European societies for AI.

AAAI Member List Server

Would you like to receive e-mail notifications of upcoming deadlines and programs? If so, please subscribe to our AAAI membership list server by writing to majordomo@aaai.org. Include *only* the following text in the body of the message: subscribe aaai-members.

Computing Research Repository (CoRR)

AAAI recently granted its cosponsorship to the new online Computing Research Repository, which is a partnership of the ACM, the Los Alamos e-Print archive, and the Networked Computer Science Technical Reference Library (NCSTRL). This site serves as a single repository to which researchers from the whole field of computing can submit reports.

The repository has been integrated into the collection of more than 20,000 computer science research reports and other material available through NCSTRL (www.ncstrl.org) and will be linked with the ACM Digital Library. The repository will be available to all members of the community at no charge.

For more details, see xxx.lanl.gov/archive/cs/intro.html or www.acm.org/repository.

AAAI-98 Proceedings Online

Full text of the AAAI-98 Proceedings is now available for members. Access to the abstracts and papers is available at

Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD–98)

Edited by Rakesh Agrawal and Paul Stolorz

As an interdisciplinary field, KDD has made important strides by generating cross-fertilization of ideas between individual disciplines. In keeping with this theme, KDD-98 was collocated with the Conference on Very Large Databases with the goal of catalyzing discussions and interactions between researchers in the two fields. Paper topics in this proceedings include the theory and foundational issues in KDD, data-mining methods and algorithms, database-centric data mining, and KDD process and human-interaction applications.

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www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/AAAI/1998/aaai98-contents.html. If you find that your paper has not been posted, please contact AAAI at press@aaai.org for instructions on submitting a PostScript or PDF file. Full text of previous years proceedings will be made available later this year.

MICAI-2000

Mexican International Conference on Artificial Intelligence 2000

April 10-14, 2000
Mexico City

http://www-cia.mty.itesm.mx/micai2000

Sponsored by the Mexican Society for Artificial Intelligence in cooperation with AAAI, CSCSI.

This conference is the merging of the Mexican Meeting on Artificial Intelligence (RNIA) and the International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence (ISAI). Both conferences have been held annually since the middle 80's.

Both theoretical and application oriented papers will be considered in the following topics:

Conference Chairs
Francisco Cantu, ITESM-Mty, Mex
Enrique Sucar, ITESM-Mor, Mex

Program Chairs
Osvaldo Cairo, ITAM, Mex
Luis A. Pineda, UNAM, Mex

Tutorial Chair
Marc Boumedine, ITESM-CCM, Mex

Workshop Chair
Humberto Sossa, IPN, Mex

Technologies
- Expert Systems and Knowledge Based Systems (T1)
- Intelligent Agents and Distributed AI (T2)
- Knowledge Management (T3)
- Intelligent Interfaces: Multimedia, virtual reality, natural language, speech, vision (T4)
- Computational Intelligence: Neural networks, genetic algorithms, fuzzy logic (T5)
- Learning: Intelligent tutoring systems, machine learning, data mining (T6)
- Knowledge: Acquisition, representation, verification, sharing and re-use (T7)
- Reasoning: Qualitative, model, constrained, commonsense (T8)
- Intelligent Robotics: Planning, navigation, assembly (T9)
- Hybrid Intelligent Systems: Integration (T10)
- Other Technologies (T11)

Application Areas
- Bussiness and Commerce (A1)
- Banking and Finance (A2)
- Manufacturing and Engineering (A3)
- Telecomunications (A4)
- Sustainable Development (A5)
- Energy and Environment (A6)
- Education (A7)
- Construction (A8)

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CALL FOR PAPERS
Authors should submit full papers by no later than September 30, 1999.
Send five copies of the complete manuscript to:
Osvaldo Cairo, Program Chair
Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo de Mexico
Rio Hondo No. 1, Tizapan San Angel, Mexico, D.F. 01000, Mexico.
Phone (52-5) 616-2211   Fax: (52-5) 616-2211
E-mail: cairo@lamport.rhon.itam.mx

CALL FOR TUTORIALS
Proposal for tutorials, half day or full day, should cover timely topics related to the major tracks of the Conference.
Send proposals by September 30, 1999 to:
Marc Boumedine, Tutorial Chair
ITESM, Campus Ciudad de Mexico
E-mail: mboumedi@campus.ccm.itesm.mx

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS
Proposal for workshops should cover timely topics related to the major tracks of the Conference. The workshops will run in parallel with tutorial sessions.
Send proposals by September 30, 1999 to:
Humberto Sossa, Workshops Chair
IPN
E-mail: hsossa@pollux.cic.ipn.mx

CALL FOR EXHIBITS
For a complete exhibit information package contact:
Moraima Campbell, Exhibits Chair
Centro de Inteligencia Artificial, ITESM-Mty
E-mail: mcampbel@campus.mty.itesm.mx

TRAVEL & LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS
Leticia Rodriguez, ITESM-Mty, Mexico
Phone (52-8) 328-4377   Fax: (52-8) 328-4189
E-mail lrodrig@campus.mty.itesm.mx