

AAAI News

Summer News from the American Association for Artificial Intelligence

IJCAI in 2001: International Conference Offers Wealth of Content

In the half century since the birth of the field of AI, there has been tremendous progress in the host of endeavors that constitute the field. There is no better place to hear many of the best minds in the field discuss their current work than the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) (www.ijcai-01.org), to be held August 4–10, 2001, in Seattle, Washington. The American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) sponsors IJCAI (in conjunction with IJCAII) and the national conference on AI in alternate years.

Attendees to this year's conference will likely have a difficult time choosing among the rich set of offerings available let alone find time to explore the beauty of Seattle, the "Emerald City." The conference offerings include:

- Invited speakers
- Special events
- AI technical program
- Tutorials
- Workshops
- Distinguished papers
- Awards
- Robots competitions
- Innovative Applications of AI Conference (colocated)
- Conference on Uncertainty in AI (colocated)
- Doctoral consortium (colocated)
- Social events

Keynote Address: Bill Gates

Bill Gates will be crossing Lake Washington from Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington, to kick off the Technical Conference Program as the IJCAI-01 keynote speaker. Gates's talk, entitled "AI in the Computing Experi-

ence: Challenges and Opportunities," promises to draw a huge crowd on Tuesday, August 7, at 11:40 AM.

Invited Speakers

Four invited speakers will address the conference. Philip Cohen, now with the Oregon Graduate Institute and a AAAI fellow, will present "Multimodal Interaction," a discussion of natural communication modalities, including spoken language and pen-based gesture in addition to the usual graphic user interface technologies. He will ground his talk with illustrations from QUICKSET, a handheld, collaborative, multimodal architecture with continuous speech and pen-based input. Joseph Halpern of Cornell University, also a AAAI fellow, will present "Plausibility Measures," a new formalism for reasoning about uncertainty. "Challenges and Advances in Teams of Autonomous Agents" will be presented by Manuela Veloso of Carnegie Mellon University. She has actively been involved in the RoboCup robot soccer competition for a number of years and in 1997 received the AAAI Allen Newell Medal for Excellence in Research. From the German Research Center for AI, Wolfgang Wahlster will present "Robust Translation of Spontaneous Speech." He will discuss the VERBMOBIL work in Europe, a speaker-independent and bidirectional speech-to-speech translation system (English, German, Japanese, and Chinese) for spontaneous dialogs accessible by mobile phone.

Special Events: Examining "The Big Picture" of AI

"I am HAL 9000 computer production number 3." It is one of the most recognized lines in the history of cinema, evoking a montage of impressions, from one of the most carefully re-

searched and crafted science fiction stories of all time. Now in its namesake year, the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey* is closely examined in a talk by David G. Stork, "The HAL 9000 Computer and the Vision of *2001: A Space Odyssey*." Stork is the author of *HAL's Legacy: 2001's Computer as Dream and Reality* (MIT Press) and the PBS documentary *2001: HAL's Legacy*. Stork, chief Scientist at Ricoh Silicon Valley's California Research Center and consulting associate professor of engineering at Stanford University, will compare the movie's visions of AI with the reality in 2001. The talk will be profusely illustrated with clips from the movie.

Although we are fortunately spared (at least for now) from RoboSurvivor, recent years have seen the emergence of a number of AI-related competitions, including auctions, deduction, planning, and others. Steve Chien of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory will moderate a panel entitled "Artificial Intelligence Competition, Boon or Bane?" that will examine the pros and cons of these competitions—do they spur or stifle truly innovative advances in research?

The semantic web, Tim Berens-Lee's vision for the next generation of the World Wide Web, is an emerging area of AI research. James Hendler, of the University of Maryland and program officer at the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA), will moderate a panel entitled "The Semantic Web Elephant: What Do the Blind Men See?" With researchers from a host of AI subfields such as knowledge representation, new web languages, and ontologies all working on the problem, are visions competing and incomplete, or is there an emerging consensus on what a semantic web can be?

The Core of the Conference

The main conference includes 4 days of technical programs, 4 invited speakers, 20 tutorials, and 29 workshops. The diversity and depth of the program is best seen by scanning the IJCAI-01 website at www.ijcai-01.org.

There are a number of conferences throughout the year devoted to the

various subfields that make up the whole of AI. IJCAI attendees will have an opportunity to hear presentations of some of the most distinguished recent papers from international conferences in robotics, vision, knowledge representation, machine learning, planning and other areas that are selected for IJCAI and specially tailored for a general AI audience.

Colocated with IJCAI this year is the Conference on Uncertainty in AI 2001 (robotics.stanford.edu/~uai01/). This conference focuses on the theoretical advances and latest applied developments of principled uncertain reasoning methods in intelligent systems, such as Bayesian networks.

Robots

One of the highlights of the summer AI conference is always the robot competition and exhibition. This year combines two different competitions in diverse tests for robots of all sizes from many of the premier robot research labs around the world. Robocup (www.cs.cmu.edu/~robocup_2001/), the soccer competition for virtual, small, and medium robot teams, will once again be colocated with IJCAI. AAAI sponsors the Mobile Robot Competition (www.cs.cmu.edu/~aaai_00) and Exhibit. This year, the Search and Rescue event will be a joint event between the Robocup and Mobile Robot competitions, and once again, the mobile robots will serve hors d'oeuvres. The ingenuity and humor exhibited in the Hors d'Oeuvres event is always a crowd pleaser. Encouraging young talent, this summer, IJCAI will also host the National Botball Tournament (www.botball.com) for robots built by middle and high school students (www.botball.com).

Innovative Applications of AI

Colocated with IJCAI is the Thirteenth Annual Conference on Innovative Applications of AI (IAAI-2001) (www.aaai.org/conferences/IAAI/2001/iaai01.htm), which recognizes cutting-edge applications—both deployed and still under development—that employ AI techniques. Deployed application winners include an Internet search engine that returns databases, from Terra Lycos (U.S.); a transportation logistics

planning and scheduling system for the U.S. Marine Corps (U.S.); intelligent agent military simulation system for the Australian Defense Force (Australia); an advisory system for grasshopper infestation management for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (U.S.); a NASA science mission planning system for a radar satellite over Antarctica, from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (U.S.); a web-based natural language sales assistant, from IBM T.J. Watson Research Center (U.S.); and a mortgage deal-structuring advisory system, from American Business Financial Services (U.S.).

Winners for emerging applications still under development include

- Integration of case-based reasoning with image analysis for high-throughput protein crystallization, from the Ontario Cancer Institute (Canada)
- A context-sensitive text corrector that fixes spelling errors, from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign (U.S.)
- An intelligent agent system with automated learning and adapting for personalized web searching, from Kyushu University (Japan),
- A constraint-based system for diagnosis of interoperability problems in asynchronous transfer mode networks
- "Electric elves" (agents) that support routine office tasks (for example, scheduling meetings) across a variety of office machines and communication devices, from University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute and Computer Science Department (U.S.)
- In-the-air flight-control system, from ENAC/LOG & CENA/LOG (France)
- A multidomain information-extraction system, from Thales/LCR (France).

Winners will present their papers during the conference (August 7–9). IAAI is sponsored by AAAI.

Honors for AI Researchers

Three awards will be given during the conference, recognizing major contributions in the field. First, the recipient of the IJCAI-01 Award for Research Excellence is Donald Michie, professor emeritus of machine intelligence at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland). Second, the IJCAI Computers and Thought Award for outstanding young AI scientist is being given to Daphne Koller, assistant professor in the Computer Science Department at

Stanford University (U.S.). Third, the Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award honors Barbara Grosz, Gordon McKay professor for computer science at Harvard University (U.S.) for her contributions to AI and service to the field. Each award recipient will present a talk at the conference.

IJCAI is sponsored by AT&T Labs, Boeing, Interprice Technologies, Microsoft, and NEC Research. IJCAI 2003 is slated for Acapulco, Mexico.

For registration information, go to www.ijcai-01.org.

Time to Socialize and Explore

IJCAI is never all work and no play. Planned events include the conference opening reception to be held at the Museum of Flight where the AI community can schmooze on Air Force One and the rest of the museum's 54 historic airplanes. The conference banquet will take attendees across the Puget Sound to beautiful Blake Island's Tillicum Village for a taste of the food, sights, and sounds of Northwest Coast Native Americans and the natural beauty of the island, including sweeping views across to the sparkling Seattle skyline. For those who want to explore Seattle and surrounds, there are endless possibilities.

We hope to see you at IJCAI in Seattle this August.

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence will be held at 12:45 PM, Wednesday, August 8, 2001, in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, Washington.

Artificial Intelligence Journal Online Access

This new benefit for regular members has now been in place for six months. If you have not had a chance to visit the *Artificial Intelligence Journal's* web site, we urge you to do so. AAAI regular members can view and browse tables of contents, view articles published in recent issues of *AI Journal*, and use the current features available through Elsevier's electronic journal

service. They can also view, print, and/or download excerpts of reasonable quantity, provided that the use of such excerpts is personal and does not amount to, or result in, commercial distribution. Participation in this experimental program is included in your normal AAAI membership dues. If you have not received your reader key to enjoy this benefit, please write to us at membership@aaai.org for more information.

NEW!!

AI ALERT Newsletter

Many of you have received the first few issues of the *AI ALERT* newsletter, which highlights selected features from the AI in the News section of the AAAI Pathfinder/AI Topics web pages. This new service keeps you informed of what has been written on AI in the press within the past few weeks. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please write to us at membership@aaai.org for instructions on how to subscribe to the AAAI members e-mail list. We also welcome your feedback on the newsletter at aitopics@aaai.org. Be sure to visit the AI Topics web site at aitopics@aaai.org.

AAAI Executive Council Nominations

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 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 2002.

To submit a candidate's names for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, phone 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 e-mail 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, 2001.

2001 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The 2001 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 2-4, 2001 at the Sea Crest Conference Center in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. The titles of the five symposia in the 2001 Fall Symposia Series are

- Anchoring Symbols to Sensor Data in Single- and Multiple-Robot Systems
Cochairs: Silvia Coradeschi (Silvia. Coradeschi@aass.oru.se) and Alessandro Saffiotti (www.aass.oru.se/Living/FSS01/)
- Emotional and Intelligent II: The Tangled Knot of Social Cognition
Chair: Lola D. Canamero (lola@lri.fr) www.lri.fr/~lola/ei-fs01.html
- Intent Inference for Collaborative Tasks
Chair: Benjamin Bell (benjamin.l.bell@lmco.com)
- Negotiation Methods for Autonomous Cooperative Systems
Chair: Costas Tsatsoulis (tsatsoul@ittc.ukans.edu)
- Using Uncertainty within Computation
Cochairs: Carla Gomes (gomes@cs.cornell.edu) and Toby Walsh (tw@cs.york.ac.uk) www.cs.york.ac.uk/~tw/fall

Symposia will be limited to 40 to 60 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 7, and the final registration deadline is September 21. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Sea Crest is October 1, 2001. The discounted single-double room rate of \$84.00 per night might not be available after this date. Please call the Sea Crest at 1-800-225-3110 or 1-508-540-

9400 for reservations, and be sure to identify yourself as an attendee at the American Association for Artificial Intelligence Fall Symposium Series.

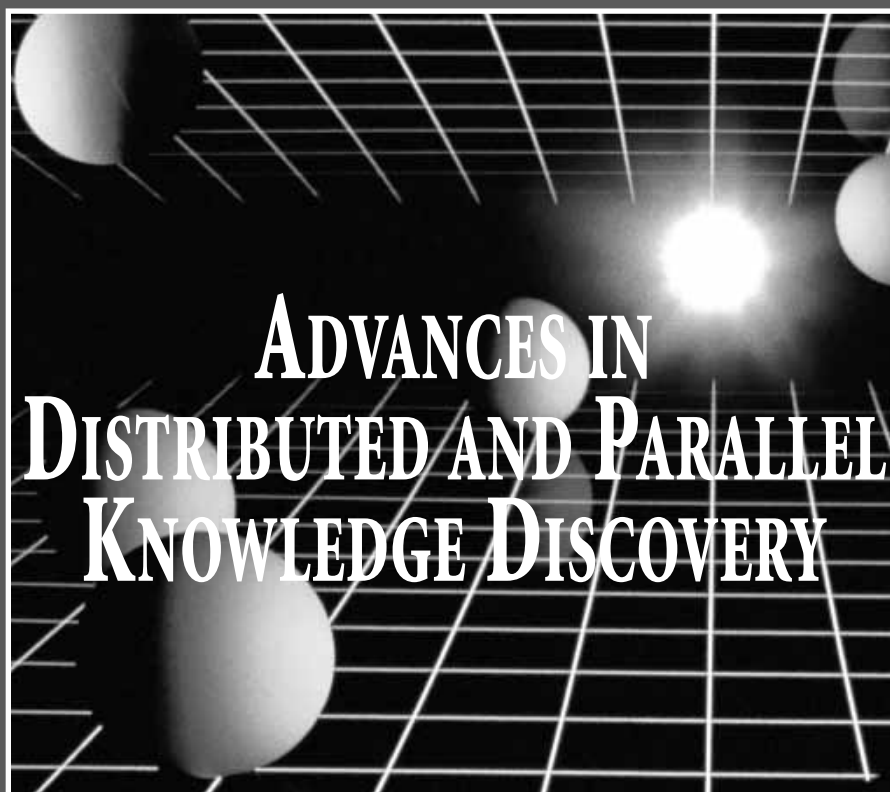
2002 Spring Symposium Series

The 2002 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 25-27, 2002, at Stanford University. The Call for Participation will be available in July on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/symposia.html) and will be mailed to all AAAI members. The tentative list of topics is as follows:

- AI and Games
Chair: Kenneth Forbus (forbus@northwestern.edu)
- Collaborative Learning Agents
Cochairs: Kagan Tumer (kagan@ptolemy.arc.nasa.gov) and Peter Stone (pstone@research.att.com)
- Intelligent Distributed and Embedded Systems
Cochairs: Gaurav S. Sukhatme (gaurav@robotics.usc.edu) and Tucker Balch (trb@ux7.sp.cs.cmu.edu)
- Knowledge and Information Aggregation for Intelligent Decision Making over Time
Chair: Kai F. Goebel (goebelk@crd.ge.com)
- Logic-Based Program Synthesis: State-of-the-Art and Future Trends
Cochairs: Doug Smith (smith@kestrel.edu) and Bernd Fisher
- Mining Answers from Texts and Knowledge Bases
Cochairs: Sanda Harabagiu (sanda@seas.smu.edu) and Vinay Chaudhri (vinay.chaudhri@sri.com)
- Safe Learning Agents
Cochairs: Mike Barley (barley@cs.auckland.ac.nz) and Hans Guesgen (hans@cs.auckland.ac.nz)
- Sketch Understanding
Chair: Tom Stahovich (stahov@andrew.cmu.edu)
- Theory for Information-Access Systems: Application for Theories of Knowledge
Chair: Pentti Kanerva (pkanerva@csl.stanford.edu)

AAAI/IAAI-2002

The Calls for Participation for the Eighteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-2002) and



Edited by Hillol Kargupta and Philip Chan

Knowledge discovery and data mining (KDD) deals with the problem of extracting interesting associations, classifiers, clusters, and other patterns from data. The emergence of network-based distributed computing environments has introduced an important new dimension to this problem—distributed sources of data. Distributed knowledge discovery (DKD) works with the merger of communication and computation by analyzing data in a distributed fashion. This technology is particularly useful for large heterogeneous distributed environments such as the Internet, intranets, mobile computing environments, and sensor networks. When the datasets are large, scaling up the speed of the KDD process is crucial. Parallel knowledge discovery (PKD) techniques addresses this problem by using high-performance multi-processor machines. This book presents introductions to DKD and PKD, extensive reviews of the field, and state-of-the-art techniques.

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the Fourteenth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-2002) will be mailed to all AAAI members in mid-July and will also be available on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org). AAAI-02 and IAAI-02 will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, July 28–August 1. The program cochairs for AAAI-02 are Rina Dechter, University of California at Irvine (dechter@ics.uci.edu) and Richard Sutton, AT&T Labs Research (sutton@research.att.com). The Conference Chair for IAAI-02 is Steve Chien, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (chien@aig.jpl.nasa.gov).

AAAI is delighted to welcome two collocated conferences in 2002:

- The Eighth ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD-02)
- The Tenth International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology

For further information, please contact AAAI at 650/328-3123 or by e-mail at ncai@aaai.org.

AAAI Member News

The Computing Research Association announced that two AAAI members have been elected to serve three-year terms on their Board of Directors, beginning July 1, 2001. Barbara Grosz of Harvard University will serve as an academic representative, and Dave Waltz of NEC Research will serve as a lab representative.

Geoffrey E. Hinton has been chosen as the first recipient of the David E. Rumelhart Prize, sponsored by the Glushko-Samuelson Foundation and the Cognitive Science Society for contributions to the formal analysis of human cognition. Hinton was chosen for his many important contributions to the analysis of neural networks, elucidating the nature of representation, processing, and learning in the brain. Hinton will receive the prize and deliver the first Rumelhart Prize Lecture in Edinburgh, Scotland, at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, to be held August 1–4 in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Prize itself will consist of a certificate, a citation of the awardee's contribution, and a monetary award of \$100,000.

Geoffrey Hinton received his B.A. in experimental psychology from Cambridge in 1970 and his Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence from Edinburgh in 1978. He did postdoctoral work at Sussex University and the University of California at San Diego and spent five years as a faculty member in the Computer Science Department at Carnegie-Mellon University. He then moved to Toronto where he was a fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and a professor in the Computer Science and Psychology departments. He is a former president of the Cognitive Science Society, and he is a fellow of the Royal Society (UK), the Royal Society of Canada, and the American Association for Artificial Intelligence. In 1992, he won the ITAC/NSERC award for contributions to information technology. Hinton is currently director of the Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit at University College London.

AAAI Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held March 25, 2001, in Palo Alto, California. *Attending:* Bruce Buchanan, Daniel Bobrow, Robert Englemore, Tim Finin, Ken Ford, Barbara Grosz, Pat Hayes, Henry Kautz, Deborah McGuinness, Tom Mitchell, David Poole, Paul Rosenbloom, Bart Selman, Reid Simmons, Manuela Veloso, David Waltz, Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton

Bruce Buchanan called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

New Business (Part One)

To accommodate the schedule of the Council's first guest, one item of new business was moved just prior to the standing committee reports. The rest of the new business can be found in the last section of these minutes.

AAAI Publication for the Lay Public: Bruce Buchanan welcomed Chris Leach of Forbes Custom Communications Partners, who presented a proposal for the launch of a new periodical aimed at 18–35 year olds, high school math and science teachers, and the media. Leach provided an overview of a consumer-oriented mag-

azine covering AI topics. The goal of the magazine was to increase public acceptance and awareness of AI, increase the stature of AAAI as the source for information about the field, increase the level of funding for AI research, and increase the number of young people seeking careers in AI. The magazine, which would have to be largely subsidized by AAAI, required a first-year commitment of \$800,000 to \$1,600,000. Some sponsorships or advertising were considered possible to defray about a quarter of these costs. Leach recommended a market survey to determine the viability of the venture. Cost for the market survey was estimated at \$50,000 to \$200,000, depending on its scope. A decision was deferred until later in the meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance/Membership

Secretary/Treasurer Norm Nielsen submitted a written report because he was unable to attend the meeting. He noted that the membership dues continue to support the *AI Magazine* and that the national conference is now subsidized in many areas by AAAI. The addition of new features to the conference without any increase in conference registration fees has resulted in a \$100,000 subsidy. Other program cost centers essentially break even. The operating expenses for the association and all the grant activity are covered by interest income from, and sales of, AAAI investments. AAAI continues to have three investment managers for its portfolio, divided into 35-percent fixed-income investments and 65-percent common stocks. Nielsen warned that the market value of the AAAI portfolio had shown a decline for the first time in five years.

Conference

Conference Committee Chair Paul Rosenbloom noted that there was little AAAI activity to report because IJCAI will be held in North America this year. He did report that IAAI, the Robot Competition, and the SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Consortium program will be held at IJCAI-01 in Seattle. IAAI submissions remained about even, and 14 papers—7 deployed and 7

emerging—were accepted for presentation at the conference. The IJCAI technical program fee will include attendance at IAAI. The Robot Competition and Exhibition will cooperate with RoboCup this year, cohosting the Search and Rescue competition and the exhibition. The Robot Competition is being subsidized by AAAI and a grant from DARPA as well as several smaller donations. The Doctoral Consortium submissions doubled this year, and 14 were accepted. This program is subsidized through a grant from the National Science Foundation, SIGART, and AAAI.

Rosenbloom noted that the plans for a revamped technical program at AAAI-02 were continuing. The technical papers will be presented in poster format. A general plenary session, featuring invited talks and selected technical presentations, will run throughout each day. The Council encouraged the Conference Committee to gather extensive feedback after the 2002 conference to gauge how well this new format was received. Because AAAI will cosponsor IJCAI in 2003, the committee will have ample time to decide whether to continue with the new poster format in 2004, or return to technical paper sessions.

Rosenbloom also noted that he will be reviewing AAAI's Conference and Workshop Support Program guidelines during the coming months, along with other members of the AAAI Grants Committee, to see if there are any recommended changes. The latest guidelines were adopted in July 1999.

Carol Hamilton reported that IJCAI-01 received 796 submissions, and 197 papers were accepted. It was noted that submissions were down from previous years, and this was attributed in part to the early submission deadline of January 9. The Council encouraged the Conference Committee to keep this in mind when setting the date for the AAAI-02 technical paper submission deadline. In addition, AAAI will research its records to compare the authors who submitted to IJCAI in 1999 versus 2001. A follow-up survey may be necessary to determine which factors are key in an author's decision to submit to AAAI or IJCAI.

Fellows/Nominating

Dave Waltz, past president and chair of the Fellows Selection Committee and the Nominating Committee reported that both committees were in the midst of their selection processes. The Fellows Committee received 32 nominations this year, including 22 unsuccessful nominations from 1999 and 2000, as well as 10 new ones for 2001. The Nominating Committee had selected a candidate for President-Elect, Ron Brachman, and 8 candidates to run for councilor. Of these, four will be elected to three-year terms. A ballot will be mailed to all regular members in May.

Awards

Dave Waltz reported that there had been little activity in this area because awards are not presented in IJCAI years. Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI is continuing to sponsor 15 \$1,000 awards at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, to be held May 8–10 in San Jose. Carol asked for a volunteer to replace Mel Montemero as the coordinator of the judging this year. Reid Simmons agreed to do this.

Membership

Membership Chair Reid Simmons reported that the Membership Committee had reviewed the feedback from the 2000 membership survey as well as the practices of several other engineering societies. The committee made several recommendations for ways to possibly increase membership in AAAI, including more benefits, increased public relations, and community building. Along these lines, the Council asked the Membership Committee to follow up on two items in particular, a monthly electronic newsletter and the formation of local chapters. A monthly newsletter, based on the AI Topics web site, might be a possibility. In addition, Simmons will circulate a local chapter proposal to the Council prior to the next meeting.

Publications

Publications Chair Ken Ford reported that *AI Magazine* articles have been submitted or invited for the next two issues and that the winter issue will have a special guest editor, James Lester. The scanning project for the back issues of the magazine is virtually

complete, and all but a few articles are now available on the web.

AAAI Press has three new books in production, which are scheduled for release at IJCAI-01. In addition, three earlier titles have been reprinted. Ford stressed the importance of recruiting good ideas for books, and enlisted the Council help in doing so.

The Council was asked to discuss and reaffirm the current policy of the AAAI, recommended by the Publications Committee, regarding the electronic distribution of proceedings papers. The stabilization of the policy will allow the AAAI Press to fully investigate and develop electronic distribution of AAAI publications with other vendors and publishing partners. The current policy states that access to AAAI proceedings table of contents and abstracts will be made freely available and that access to the full text of papers will be restricted to AAAI members, sometimes after an appropriate waiting period agreeable to our copublisher, The MIT Press. The Council voted in favor of reaffirming this policy for a period of at least two years, after which time the Publications Committee will review it and make any needed recommendations.

Grants

Grants Chair Manuela Veloso reported that \$124,624 had been awarded in grants since August 1, 2001, with an additional \$307,263 committed for the remainder of the calendar year. Grants support independent workshops and conferences, women and minority programs, several national conference programs, the student scholar program, awards and fellows programs, and miscellaneous special project requests. Of particular note in this final category is AAAI's new subsidy for electronic access for AAAI members to the *AI Journal*.

Symposium

Carol Hamilton reported that the search is still under way for a new associate chair for the Symposium Committee, and asked for a volunteer. David Poole agreed to take on this responsibility. The 2000 Fall Symposium was held in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. Each of the five symposia had an average attendance of 36 people, slightly down from the previous

year. The Fall Symposium will return to the same site in 2001 but will seek an alternate site in 2002. The 2001 Spring Symposium had seven symposia, and the preregistration figures were up by about 10 percent from 2000.

Old Business

International Organization

Barbara Grosz reported that the committee charged with investigating the possibility of forming an international organization had reached two conclusions: (1) the process needed to involve as many national societies as possible and 2) there should be a meeting of the leaders of these societies at IJCAI-01 to discuss what the goals and purpose of the international organization might be. Grosz also encouraged the Council to consider what AAAI might be willing to offer to an international organization. The Council voted in favor of sponsoring the meeting at IJCAI-01. Grosz agreed to bring feedback to the Council from that meeting so that they can decide what role AAAI would play in the organization.

DARPA Recruitment

Bruce Buchanan reported on behalf of Jim Hender that DARPA was in need of good AI representatives. Currently, there is no mechanism in place to identify potential candidates for these positions. The Council suggested that the President-Elect should take this on as a permanent function.

CRA Report

Tim Finin reported that two members of the AI community were elected to the CRA Board of Directors in 2000, including Bill Woods and Kathy Mckeown. Dave Waltz also joined the board after a seat was vacated. Dave Waltz, Barbara Grosz, and Jeff Bradshaw have been nominated to run this year. Finin also reported that the CRA sponsored an Academic Careers and Effective Teaching Workshop this winter for faculty and advanced graduate students in computer science and other computer-related disciplines. The CRA recently announced the recipients of the CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Awards. Two of the four recipients were AI students. Tim will present the award to the Outstanding Female Undergraduate, Lisa Anthony,

at IJCAI-01. Other awards were presented at ACM1. The CRA has instituted an NSF-sponsored Digital Government Fellowship Program that is designed to build ties between the academic computing community and information technology workers in federal, state, and local governments. Several members of the AAAI community have been nominated as fellows for this project, and additional suggestions can be sent to Tim at finin@umbc.edu. For more information about the CRA and its many programs, please visit www.cra.org.

New Business

Consumer Publication Proposal Vote

The Council resumed its discussion of this proposal. Bruce Buchanan stressed that the main purpose of this publication should be outreach, both to educate the lay public and increase interest in the field. There was some concern about whether a commercial publication was an appropriate method for this. A lengthy discussion was held about how to reach the same audience through alternate methods, including the web, a newsletter, or increased public relations. The Council did not approve the creation of this new publication or the market survey but encouraged Buchanan to continue discussions with Forbes about alternatives.

Botball Proposal

The KISS Institute, which organizes the National Botball Tournament, submitted a proposal for a more formalized link between AAAI and Botball. Specifically, they were seeking to (1) have the National Botball Tournament officially become a part of the AAAI Robot Exhibit; (2) have AAAI's Botball Travel Grants grow, commensurate with the number of teams and regions involved each year; (3) have AAAI establish a AAAI Botball Alumni Travel Grant, to be distributed by KISS Institute to 2 to 3 students who attended a previous National Botball Tournament; and (4) have KISS Institute continue to promote AAAI as a national sponsor. Some benefits to AAAI would include recruiting new students into the field; coordination of budgets, planning, and scheduling; increased attendance at the conference; conti-

Please Join Us for the AAAI Annual Meeting!

All AAAI Members are invited to attend the annual business meeting of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence. The 2001 meeting will be held at 12:45 PM, Wednesday, August 8, 2001, in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, Washington.

nity of the program at the national conference; promotion of AAAI by the KISS Institute; and a valuable outreach program for AAAI. The proposal was approved with \$50,000 cap on travel grants. This program will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Public Relations

Bruce Buchanan reported that public relations efforts will be increased this year in anticipation of, and in response to, the release of the AI movie, scheduled for June 2001. This movie is expected to generate some additional interest in AI, and it was agreed that AAAI should take a proactive role in educating the press and public about the field.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.