

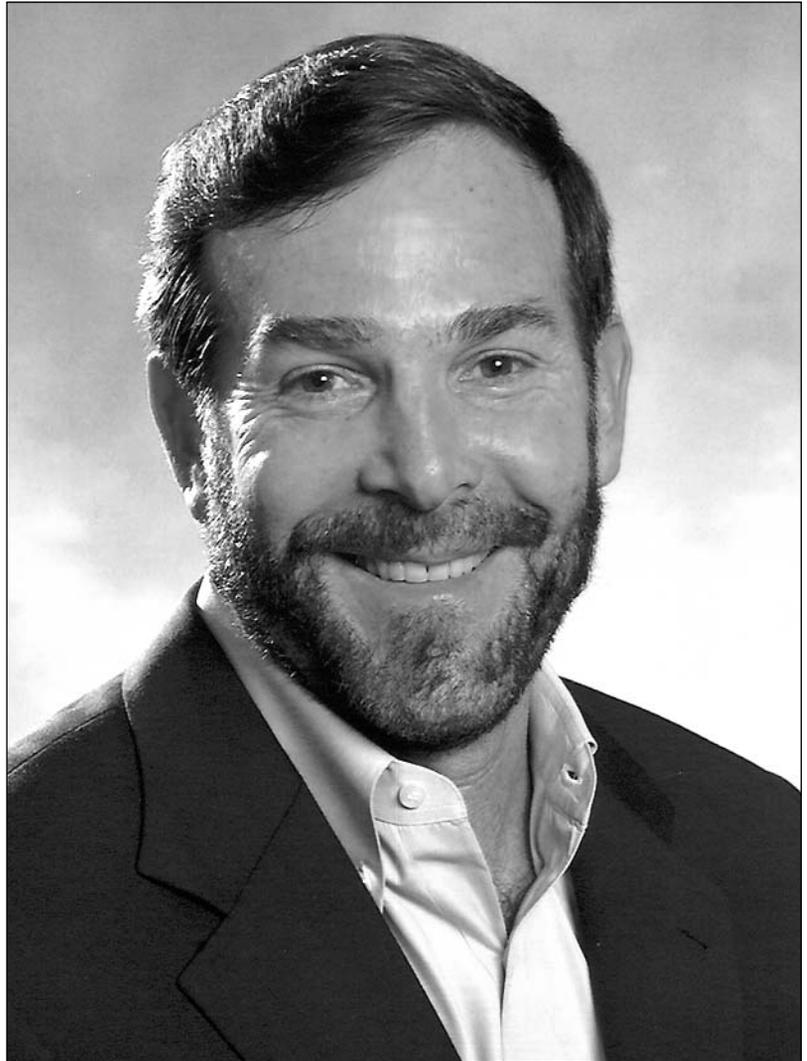
# Organizing the Tutorials at AAAI-80

*Rick Hayes-Roth*

■ Fortunate to be one of the cofounders of AAAI, the author describes how the association was founded, how the first AAAI conference was planned, and how the first tutorial program was organized.

I worked with Raj Reddy during my two years as a research computer scientist at Carnegie Mellon University. I had been hired by Raj and Allen Newell to play a lead role on the Hearsay-II speech understanding project in 1976. After that, I moved to Rand Corporation and, shortly thereafter, took over the leadership of the research program in information processing systems, where the focus was on AI tools and applications and cognitive science. It was in that context that Raj spoke to me about his conviction that it was time for AI to become a recognized scientific profession, much as the AAAS and IEEE had done for natural science and engineering, respectively. This conversation was an example of Raj's *modus operandi*, the gap between vision and current state translated simply into gap-reducing actions. It was therefore obvious to him, before anyone else, what needed to be done: we needed to establish a professional organization and run a series of prestigious annual meetings.

I seem to recall a short series of phone conferences, which Raj organized, that included a number of key people from leading labs and universities. Many of these early founders were in Raj's personal net and found it easy to say "yes" to him. We had little doubt that we could organize a conference and that the growing interest in AI, especially in expert systems, would make for an interesting gathering. Tasks were identified and task leaders were "volunteered"



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### Knowledge Engineering: Tools and Techniques for AI Systems

Dr. Mark Stefik, *Xerox PARC*  
Prof. Doug Lenat, *Stanford University*

### Natural Language Understanding Systems

Dr. Gary Hendrix, *SRI International*  
Prof. Wendy Lehnert, *Yale University*

### Technology Watch: An AI Tutorial for R&D Managers

Prof. Edward Feigenbaum, *Stanford University*  
Prof. Raj Reddy, *Carnegie-Mellon University*

*The AAAI-80 Tutorial Program was held on Monday, August 18, 1980 in the History Corner at Stanford University.*



*Four of the Original AAAI-80 Tutorial Speakers. Clockwise from the top: Gary Hendrix, Mark Stefik, Wendy Lehnert, and Doug Lenat.*

to accomplish them. In that way, I became responsible for organizing the tutorial program that would precede the first AAAI National Conference. I had a pretty good idea about what topics would be interesting to people who'd be willing to pay several hundred dollars each for half-day tutorials and laid out a program. It was surprisingly easy to create an interesting menu of choices, to line up world-class researchers to present the seminars, and to fill the audiences with eager "students" drawn from the ranks of professional engineers from a wide range of companies, government laboratories, and countries.

The tutorial program was a key aspect in launching AAAI, because it generated significant income that could help the organization bootstrap. Funds flowed into the professional support and publication efforts that gave the newborn organization a sense of momentum, seriousness, and organizational savoir faire. I think these qualities have proved very important to the sustained accomplishments of AAAI.

I have benefited greatly from my associations with several luminaries in this field, including Raj, Allen, Herb Simon, and Ed Feigenbaum. Each in his way contributed greatly to the origin of the field and to the motive force behind AAAI. What an honor and pleasure to have been able to help get this going.

**Rick Hayes-Roth** was tutorial chair of AAAI-80. He is currently a professor in information sciences at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. Formerly he was CTO/software at Hewlett-Packard, chairman and CEO of Teknowledge Corporation, and program manager for research in information processing at the Rand Corporation. He is an AAAI Fellow.