*25th Anniversary Issue*

# AAAI News

*Winter News from the
American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

## Celebrate Fifty Years of AI in North America with AAAI-06 / IAAI-06!

Mark your calendars now for AAAI-06, celebrating fifty years of artificial intelligence in North America! The Twenty-First National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-06) will be held July 16–20, 2006, at the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center in Boston Massachusetts. The Eighteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence will be collocated with AAAI-06, and will be held July 18-20. The AAAI-06 technical program has been greatly expanded to include the following programs, including two new special technical paper tracks:

### Artificial Intelligence and the Web (New Technical Track)

The special track on AI and the Web invites technical papers on the use of AI techniques, systems, and concepts involving the Web. The program chairs are especially interested in receiving papers in two active research areas: (1) using text and language analysis to interpret and understand natural language text found on the web and (2) developing and exploiting semantic web languages and systems that explicitly encode knowledge using languages such as RDF and OWL.

### Integrated Intelligent Capabilities (New Technical Track)

Papers submitted to this track should report on theoretical or empirical studies that highlight the role of integration of multiple components in achieving intelligent behavior. They should also articulate the mechanisms for integrating multiple components and the salient characteristics of individual components that facilitate such integration.

### Senior Member Papers

The Senior Member Presentation Track provides an opportunity for established researchers to give a broad talk on a well-developed body of research, an important new research area, or a thoughtful critique of trends in the field.

### AAAI Nectar Papers

The AAAI Nectar track is designed to highlight the results of a paper that appeared in the proceedings of one of AAAI's sister conferences or a conference in a related field in a way that is accessible to the broad AI audience.

### Member Posters

The goal of this novel program is to provide a forum in which AAAI members can present and discuss their work based on a submitted abstract, rather than a regular AAAI paper. In order to stimulate cross-fertilization and the free circulation of ideas, AAAI encourages its members to submit posters of various types: (1) original, unpublished work, (2) summary of a recently published paper, or (3) overview or synthesis of the author's work in a particular field or application of AI.

### Additional Programs

AAAI-06 will also include all of these previously successful programs, including the Workshop Program, the Tutorial Forum, the Student Abstract & Poster Program, the Eleventh AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium, the Intelligent Systems Demonstrations, the Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, and, now in its second year, the Game Playing Competition.

### Deadlines

A few important deadlines to note on your calendar:

- *January 24:* IAAI Electronic papers due
- *January 26:* Student Abstracts due
- *February 3:* Doctoral Consortium Applications due
- *February 16:* AAAI-06 Electronic Technical Abstracts due (NEW!)
- *February 21:* Technical Paper Submissions due
- *March 14:* Senior Member Papers and Nectar Papers due
- *April 4:* Intelligent System Demos proposals due
- *April 19:* AAAI Member abstracts and posters due
- *April 25:* AAAI-06 Technical, Senior Member, and Nectar final papers due
- *May 15:* Robot Competition Registrations due
- *May 22:* AAAI Member final abstracts due

For a complete list of deadlines, program information, and to check for further updates, please visit the AAAI-06 web site (www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2006). Registration materials will be posted in early March or before. Please send email inquiries to aaai06@aaai.org.

### AAAI-06 Workshop Program

The AAAI-06 workshops will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 16–17, in Boston, Massachusetts. The cochairs of the AAAI-06 Workshop Program are Joyce Chai, Michigan State University (jchai@cse.msu.edu) and Keith Decker, University of Delaware (decker@cis.udel.edu). A preliminary list of workshops that have been accepted into the program is included below. For complete information about schedules and guidelines for participation, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2006/.

- W1. AI-Driven Technologies for Services-Oriented Computing
  *Organizers:* Prashant Doshi, The University of Georgia (pdoshi@cs.uga.edu), Richard Goodwin, IBM T. J. Watson Research

Center (rgoodwin@us.ibm.com), and Amit Sheth, The University of Georgia (amit@cs.uga.edu)

- ■ W2. Auction Mechanisms for Robot Coordination
  *Organizers:* Sven Koenig, University of Southern California (skoenig@usc.edu), M. Bernardine Dias, Carnegie Mellon University (mbdias@ri.cmu.edu), and Michail G. Lagoudakis, Technical University of Crete (lagoudakis@intelligence.tuc.gr)

- ■ W3. Cognitive Modeling and Agent-based Simulations
  *Organizers:* M. Afzal Upal, University of Toledo (afzal@eecs.utoledo.edu) and Ron Sun, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

- ■ W4. Cognitive Robotics
  *Organizers:* Michael Beetz, Technische Universität München (beetz@in.tum.de), Kanna Rajan, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), and Michael Thielscher, Dresden University of Technology

- ■ W5. Complex, Event-Oriented Information Extraction
  *Organizers:* Douglas E. Appelt, SRI International (appelt@ai.sri.com), Naveen Ashish, UC Irvine (ashish@ics.uci.edu), Dayne Freitag (DayneFreitag@fairisaac.com), and Dmitry Zelenko, SRA International (Dmitry_Zelenko@sra.com)

- ■ W6. Computational Aesthetics: Artificial Intelligence Approaches to Beauty and Happiness
  *Organizers:* Hugo Liu, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (hugo@media.mit.edu) and Rada Mihalcea, University of North Texas (rada@cs.unt.edu)

- ■ W7. Educational Data Mining
  *Organizers:* Joseph E. Beck, Carnegie Mellon University (joseph.beck@cmu.edu), Tiffany Barnes, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (tbarnes2@uncc.edu), and Esma Aimeur, Université de Montréal (aimeur@iro.umontreal.ca)

- ■ W8. Evaluation Methods for Machine Learning
  *Organizers:* Chris Drummond, NRC Institute for Information Technology (Chris.Drummond@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca), William Elazmeh, University of Ottawa, (welazmeh@site.uottawa.ca), and Nathalie Japkowicz, University of Ottawa nat@site.uottawa.ca)

- ■ W9. Heuristic Search, Memory Based Heuristics and Their Applications
  *Organizers:* Ariel Felner, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (felner@bgu.ac.il), Hector Geffner, UPF (hector.geffner@upf.edu), and Robert C. Holte, University of Alberta (holte@cs.ualberta.ca)

- ■ W10. Human Implications of Human-Robot Interaction
  *Organizers:* Wolfgang Achtner, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Lundy Lewis, Southern New Hampshire University, and Ted Metzler, Oklahoma City University (tmetzler@okcu.edu)

- ■ W11. Intelligent Techniques for Web Personalization
  *Organizers:* Sarabjot Singh Anand, University of Warwick (ssanand@dcs.warwick.ac.uk) and Bamshad Mobasher, DePaul University (mobasher@cs.depaul.edu)

- ■ W12. Learning for Search
  *Organizers:* Wheeler Ruml, Palo Alto Research Center (ruml@parc.com) and Frank Hutter, University of British Columbia (hutter@cs.ubc.ca)

- ■ W13. Modeling and Retrieval Context
  *Organizers:* Thomas R. Roth-Berghofer, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI GmbH) (trb@dfki.uni-kl.de), Stefan Schulz, Carleton University (schulz@sce.carleton.ca), David B. Leake, Indiana University (leake@cs.indiana.edu), and Sven Schwarz, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI GmbH) (sven.schwarz@dfki.de)

- ■ W14. Modeling Others from Observations
  *Organizers:* Gal Kaminka (galk@cs.biu.ac.il), David Pynadath (pynadath@isi.edu), and Christopher Geib (christopher.geib@honeywell.com)

- ■ W15. Ontology Learning on the Semantic Web
  Organizers: Jugal Kalita, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (kalita@pikespeak.uccs.edu), Leo Obrst, The MITRE Corporation (lobrst@mitre.org), Peter Patel-Schneider, Bell Labs Research (pfps@research.bell-labs.com), and Suzette Stoutenburg, The MITRE Corporation (suzette@mitre.org)

- ■ W16. Spatial and Temporal Reasoning
  *Organizers:* Hans W. Guesgen, University of Auckland (hans@cs.auckland.ac.nz), Gerard Ligozat, Universite Paris-Sud, and Rita V. Rodriguez, National Science Foundation

- ■ W17. Statistical and Empirical Approaches for Spoken Dialog Systems
  *Organizers:* Jason D. Williams, University of Cambridge (jdw30@cam.ac.uk), Steve Young, University of Cambridge (sjy@eng.cam.ac.uk), Pascal Poupart, University of Waterloo (ppoupart@cs.uwaterloo.ca), and Stephanie Seneff, MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (seneff@csail.mit.edu)

## AAAI Second Annual General Game Playing Competition

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of the Game Playing Competition, to be held prior to and during AAAI-06 in Boston, July 16–20. The AAAI Competition is designed to test the abilities of general game playing systems by comparing their performance on a variety of games. The competition will consist of two phases: a qualification round and a runoff competition. A $10,000 Prize will be awarded to the winning entrant. The competition is open to all computer systems, except those generated by affiliates of Stanford University. For a complete Call for Participation, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2006/. In addition, the competition website at games.stanford.edu will contain further details, including the description of the underlying framework, the game description language, and the programmatic interfaces necessary to play the games.

## Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Scholar and Volunteer Programs. The Student Scholar Program provides partial travel support for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the conference program or letters of recommendation from their faculty advisor; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 17, 2006. 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

## AAAI Email Addresses

Please note that AAAI will be modifying its email addresses in 2006 in an effort to reduce the amount of spam that we are receiving. We will be adding 06 to all email addresses, as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| aaai06 | aimagazine06 |
| aitopics06 | fss06 |
| info06 | membership06 |
| press06 | orders06 |
| iaai06 | sss06 |
| workshops06 | scholarships06 |
| volunteer06 | awards06 |
| fellows06 | |

The number will be updated on an annual basis. AAAI can also be reached by filling out the contact form, accessible from www.aaai.org.

- Computational Approaches to Analyzing Weblogs
- Distributed Plan and Schedule Management
- Formalizing and Compiling Background Knowledge and Its Applications to Knowledge Representation and Question Answering
- Semantic Web Meets e-Government
- To Boldly Go Where No Human-Robot Team Has Gone Before
- What Went Wrong and Why: Lessons from AI Research and Applications

Registration information is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2006/. Please note that the deadline for registration for invited participants is February 17 and the general registration deadline is March 3.

to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at scholarships06@ aaai.org, or 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Telephone: (650) 328-3123.

The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in Boston, Massachusetts. In 2006, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to student scholars for the volunteer positions. Local students or students not requiring travel assistance can apply for the Volunteer Program if openings are available. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at volunteer06@aaai.org. The deadline for volunteer applications is April 17, 2006.

## AIIDE Date Change!

Please note that the dates for the Second Annual Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AI-IDE-06) conference have been moved to June 20–23. The conference will return to the site of the very successful first event in Marina del Rey, California. AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between interactive entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic AI re-

searchers. Sponsored by the American Association for 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-06 will include invited speaker sessions, paper presentation sessions, demonstration sessions, exhibits and a new full day of tutorials. We invite researchers and developers to share their insights and cutting-edge results, and encourage the presentation of a) results from core AI research areas applicable to interactive digital entertainment and b) AI approaches developed and fielded in commercial systems. Technical papers are due January 18, 2006. Please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/AI-IDE/2006 or www.aiide.org for more information.

## 2006 Spring Symposium Series

The 2006 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 27-29 at Stanford University and will feature eight symposia on the following subjects:

- Argumentation for Consumers of Healthcare
- Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Cognitive Science Principles Meet AI-Hard Problems

## 2006 Fall Symposium Series

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of the Fall Symposium Series! FSS-06 will be held in the Washington, DC area in October 2006. The program will feature approximately eight symposia. For more information about the accepted symposia, please see www. aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/2006/. Submissions will be due in May 1, 2006.

## AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2006 Fellows Selection Committee is currently accepting nominations for AAAI Fellow. The AAAI Fellows program is designed to recognize people who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence over at least a ten-year period. All regular members in good standing are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. Two references must accompany nominations. The nominator or one of the references must be a AAAI Fellow who is a current member of AAAI. For further information about the Fellows Program or to receive nomination and reference forms, please contact AAAI by telephone (650-328-3123); fax (650-321-4457); or e-mail (fellows06@aaai. org). Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI web site at

www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.html. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2006.

## 2006 Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its two special awards in 2006, and is currently seeking nominations for the 2006 AAAI Classic Paper Award, and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award. The 2006 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Sixth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1987 in Seattle, Washington. The 2006 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community.

Awards will be presented at AAAI-06 in Boston, Massachusetts, and will include a certificate and $1,000. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at http://www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.html. The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2006. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

## Stanford Team Wins DARPA Grand Challenge

AAAI congratulates Sebastian Thrun, associate professor of computer science at Stanford University and director of the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, and the entire Stanford Racing Team on their recent victory in the DARPA Grand Challenge, a 175-mile driverless race across the Mojave Desert in California and Nevada. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) launched the Grand Challenge in 2004 to speed the development of autonomous off-road vehicles. Stanford's autonomous robotic car, Stanley, traversed the off-road course in a little less than six hours, 53 minutes. The grand prize was $2 million. Three other cars successfully completed the course shortly after Stanley — two from Carnegie Mellon University and one team from Metairie, Louisiana, who overcame delays and obstacles created by Hurricane Katrina.



*Courtesy, DARPA*

One additional vehicle, sponsored by Oshkosh Truck, completed the course, but did not do so in under 10 hours, one of the criteria for qualifying for the cash prize.

## Kenneth Ford Honored Abroad and at Home

Kenneth M. Ford, founder and director of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), has been awarded an honorary doctorate from France's Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux. Ford was honored for his contributions to the fields of information technology and artificial intelligence, along with his service as a member of the National Science Board. The Victor Segalen University is home to l'Institut de Cognitique (Cognition Institute). The Cognition Institute is a new university research center with a focus similar to that of IHMC: using technology to enhance human capabilities.

In addition, Ford was recently named as a member of the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) in Arlington, VA. Dr. The SAB was established in 1947 as a vital link between the Air Force and the nation's civilian, scientific and engineering communities to promote the exchange of the latest scientific and technical information that may enhance the accomplishment of the Air Force mission. The Board reports to both the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force and serves as a major force in determining U.S. Air Force research and development policy.

## Professor Sheldon Klein

AAAI regrets to report that Sheldon Klein, Professor Emeritus of Computer Science and Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin, passed away on July 22, 2005. Professor Klein was born in Chicago and grew up in Los Angeles. He attended the University of California at Berkeley where he received his B.A. in anthropology in 1956 and his Ph.D. in linguistics in 1963. While in California, he did fieldwork with the Kawaiisu Indians as part of the University of California Survey of California Indian Languages near Bakersfield, California. In 1964 he joined Carnegie Mellon University as an Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Computer Sciences. He joined the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1966, as an Associate Professor of Computer Sciences and Linguistics and was promoted to a Full Professor in 1973. He served as Linguistics Department chair from 1974 to 1976. Klein retired on December 30, 2002, but continued to teach on a voluntary basis until the end of the spring semester of 2005. Klein was a member of AAAI for over 20 years.