AAAI News

*Fall News from the
American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

Congratulations to the 2006 AAAI Award Winners!

Ron Brachman, AAAI Past President and Awards Committee Chair, and Alan Mackworth, AAAI President, presented the AAAI Awards in July at AAAI-06 in Boston, Massachusetts. Award winners received a certificate and a check for $1,000. For more information about nominations for AAAI 2007 Awards, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org or 650-328-3123.

Classic Paper Award

The 2006 AAAI Classic Paper Award was given to the authors of the most influential papers from the Sixth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1987 in Seattle, Washington. A joint award was presented this year to Philip E. Agre and David Chapman for "Pengi: An Implementation of a Theory of Activity" and to Michael P. Georgeff and Amy L. Lansky for "Reactive Reasoning and Planning." These two papers were honored for their longstanding contributions to the field of automated planning, leading to a resurgence of work in reactive systems as well as integrated planning–execution systems. In addition, the authors of two additional papers received honorable mention— Richard E. Korf for "Real-Time Heuristic Search: First Results" and his seminal contributions to time-critical search with diverse applications such as robotics, routing, and interactive games; and Judea Pearl and Thomas Verma for "The Logic of Representing Dependencies by Directed Graphs" and their seminal contributions to understanding and reasoning about independence in probabilistic graphical models.

About the Award Winners

Phil Agre is an associate professor of Information Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles. Two of his recent publications include "The Practical Republic: Social Skills and the Progress of Citizenship," in *Community in the Digital Age* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2004), and "Internet Research: For and Against," in *Internet Research Annual,* volume 1 (Peter Lang, 2004).

Information about *David Chapman* was unavailable at press time.

Michael Georgeff is currently leading an industry and research consortium to establish an intelligent network of health services across Australia, by serving as director of the e-Health Research Unit, professor of medicine at Monash University, and as a principal of Precedence Research Institute. In the 1980s, Georgeff was program director in the Artificial Intelligence Center at SRI International and a member of Stanford University's Center for the Study of Language and Information. During this period, he and his team created one of the first implementations of an intelligent software agent, using it to help control NASA's space shuttle during space missions. In 1988, Georgeff became founding director ot the Australian Artificial Intelligence Institute, which became a world leader in intelligent agent technology. In 1997, he founded Agentis Software to create one of the first enterprise software products to use belief desire intention (BDI) agent technology.

Amy Lansky has forged an interesting career that has taken her from mathematics to computer science, from research in program verification to artificial intelligence planning systems, and then on to work in homeopathic medicine and consciousness research (renresearch.com). Lansky's research on AI planning at SRI and NASA included work on reactive reasoning and planning (the PRS system) as well as localized action-based multiagent planning (the GEMPLAN and COLLAGE systems). In 1998, Lansky moved on to become a student, writer, promoter, and, most recently, part-time practitioner of homeopathic medicine, prompted by the miraculous cure of her son's autism with homeopathy. In 2003, she published *Impossible Cure: The Promise of Homeopathy* (impossiblecure.com). Lansky currently serves on the executive board of the National Center for Homeopathy and has also been a health freedom activist as a founding board member of the California Health Freedom Coalition.

Richard Korf is a professor of computer science at the University of California, Los Angeles. From 1983 to 1985, he served as the Herbert M. Singer Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Columbia University. His research is in the areas of problem-solving, heuristic search, and planning in artificial intelligence. He is the author of *Learning to Solve Problems by Searching for Macro-Operators* (Pitman, 1985). He serves on the editorial boards of *Artificial Intelligence,* and the *Journal of Applied Intelligence.* Korf is the recipient of a 1985 IBM Faculty Development Award, a 1986 NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award, the first UCLA Computer Science Department Distinguished Teaching Award in 1989, the first UCLA School of Engineering Student's Choice Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1996, and the Lockheed Martin Excellence in Teaching Award in 2005. He is a Fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence.

Judea Pearl is now an emeritus professor at UCLA, and president of the board of directors of the Daniel Pearl Foundation, which promotes cross-cultural understanding through journalism, music, and innovative communications.

Pearl joined the faculty at the University of California at Los Angeles in 1970 and served as director of the Cognitive Systems Laboratory, where he conducted research in knowledge representation, probabilistic and causal reasoning, constraint processing, and learning. A member of the National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and a Fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, Pearl is a recipient of the IJCAI Research Excellence Award (1999), the AAAI Classic Paper Award (2000), and the Lakatos Award of Outstanding Contribution to the Philosophy of Science (2001).

Information about *Thomas Verma* was unavailable at press time.

Distinguished Service Award

The 2006 AAAI Distinguished Service Award recognizes one individual each year for extraordinary service to the AI community. The AAAI Awards Committee is pleased to announce that this year's recipient is Edward A. Feigenbam of Stanford University. Feigenbaum was honored specifically for a lifetime of service to artificial intelligence as a tireless and effective champion of the field, including seminal contributions to the theory and practice of knowledge-based systems, co-editorship of the first major collection of AI papers, mentorship of numerous leading AI researchers, facilitation of the commercialization of AI technology, and service to the AI and computer science communities in many key leadership roles, including president of AAAI and chief scientist of the US Air Force.

Edward Feigenbaum is the Kumagai Professor of Computer Science Emeritus at Stanford University. In the 1960s and 1970s he pioneered the development of the expert systems field within AI and, in 1986, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. In 1995, he received computer science's highest research honor—The ACM Turing Award. Feigenbaum was the second president of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, serving from 1980–81.

Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award

This award was established in 2003 to honor Robert S. Engelmore's extraordinary service to AAAI, *AI Magazine,* and the AI applications community, and his contributions to applied AI. The annual keynote lecture is presented at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference. Topics encompass Engelmore's wide interests in AI, and each lecture is linked to a subsequent article published upon approval by *AI Magazine.* The lecturer and, therefore, the author for the magazine article, are chosen jointly by the IAAI Program Committee and the editor of *AI Magazine.*

AAAI congratulates the 2006 recipient of this award, Bruce G. Buchanan, who is honored for leadership in artificial intelligence and pioneering contributions to knowledge-based systems, machine learning, and automated discovery, along with significant applications in medicine, biology and chemistry. His lecture was entitled "What Do We Know About Knowledge?" and focused on some of the milestones in understanding the nature of knowledge and some of what has been learned from fifty years of AI.

Bruce G. Buchanan is a University Professor of Computer Science Emeritus from the University of Pittsburgh. He was on the faculty at Stanford University and the University of Pittsburgh, with appointments in computer science, philosophy, medicine, and intelligent systems. He is a Fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine. He has served on the editorial boards of several journals and has served as secretary-treasurer and president of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence.

AAAI-05 Robot Competition Results

The AAAI-06 Mobile Robot Competition celebrated AI's fiftieth anniversary with a scavenger hunt, where robots hunted for objects like a stuffed Winnie the Pooh. Winning the Scavenger Hunt this year was Kansas State University's Willie, which used sonar to find objects inside an area it had previously mapped. Other award-winners included Idaho National Labs (Judge's Choice Award for Outstanding Human/Robot Interface) and UCLA (Judges' Choice Award for Outstanding Adaptation of Current Research).

In the Human Robot Interaction competition, Université de Sherbrooke swept the award categories, winning the Judges' and Audience Favorite categories as well as being the overall winner of the competition.

General Game Playing Competition Results

The second annual AAAI General Game Playing Competition, held from May to July 2006, ended in Boston at AAAI-06, where Fluxplayer and Cluneplayer met in a final showdown on July 19 to compete for the $10,000 prize. The winner of the competition and the Stanford Prize was Fluxplayer, a general game player created by Stephan Schiffel and Michael Thielscher of Dresden University. Fluxplayer won the competition with a score of 2,690.75, beating out second-place finisher and defending champion Cluneplayer of UCLA (which finished with 2,573.75 points) by 117 points. Greg Kuhlmann's and Peter Stone's UT-Austin-Larg finished third with 2,370.50 points.

AAAI 2006 Special Awards Program Winners at the Annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

Hyperborean Wins Poker Competition

The University of Alberta's Hyperborean won the first AAAI Computer Poker Competition held at AAAI-06 in Boston. The bot from Edmonton defeated four other competing bots, including bots from Carnegie Mellon and Monash Universities as well as two privately designed bots to take first place in the Bankroll (0.3925 small bets per hand) and Series Competitions (3 wins, 0 losses).

BluffBot, the second place finisher, took second in the Bankroll competition (0.0954 small bets per hand) as well as the Series competition (2 wins, 1 loss).

Third place in the Bankroll Competition went to Monash BPP (Monash University, Australia). Third Place in the series competition went to GS2 from Carnegie Mellon University, with 1 win, and 2 losses.

AAAI INTEL ISEF Special Awards

Now in its eighth year, the AAAI Special Awards program at the annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) consists of up to 10 awards to recognize outstanding achievement in the area of intelligent computation and robotics. The awards are intended for the best exhibits in the area of computer science with an artificial intelligence component. Finalists in other areas with significant computer science components are also eligible. The student authors of each award-winning project share $500 and each student receives a certificate and other momentos. The winners and their schools also receive a complimentary one-year membership in the AAAI, including a subscription to *AI Magazine.*

This year, the ISEF was held May 7-13, 2006 in Indianapolis, Indiana. There were 10 winning projects by 13

students (two teams). Eight projects were entered in the category of computer science, one in engineering, and one in mathematics. The 2006 winners are as follows:

- Facool: Convenient Internet Face Retrieval System (Liu Liu, Shanghai Datong High School, Shanghai, China)
- Statistical-based Adaptive Binarization for Document Imaging (Nat Piyapramote, Sarasit Phithayalai School, Banpong, Ratchaburi, Thailand)
- A Novel Approach to the Automatic Recognition of Emotions in Natural Speech (Caroline Elizabeth Pietsch, Ossining High School, Ossining, New York)
- Tough or Diabolical? An Analysis of Sudoku Difficulty Level (Elsa Star Culler, Lincoln Park High School, Chicago, Illinois)
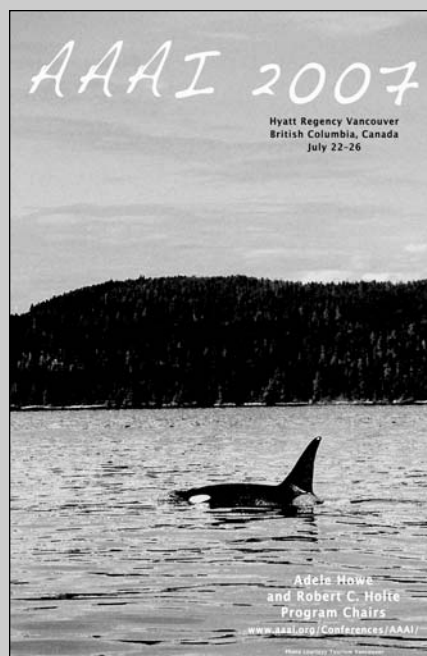- Three-Dimensional Face Recognition from Video: Facial Surface Re-

construction and Analysis Using Tensor Algebra and Differential Geometry (Justin Moore Solomon, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Virginia)

■ Combining Touch Screen and Scanner Input for Handwriting Recognition (Alan Garrett Pierce and Nathaniel John Broussard, School of Science and Technology, Beaverton, Oregon)

■ Leaf! What Are You? (Hung-Ju Chen and Min Ju Yang, National Hsinchu Girls, Hsinchu City, Taiwan, Chinese Taipei)

■ A New Algorithm to Minimize Factory Inefficiency Through Penalty Reduction (Andrew David Gamalski, Hamilton High School, Chandler, Arizona and Vinayak Muralidhar, Corona del Sol High School, Tempe, Arizona)

■ Acoustic Localization, Detection, and Identification (Joseph Anthony Crivello, University School of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

■ Computer-aided Identification of Cancer from Photomicrographs by Entropy Analysis (Lucia Mocz, Mililani High School, Mililani, Hawaii)

Congratulations to all the winners! In addition, we would like to recognize the judges, who attended the fair in Indianapolis and selected the 10 winning projects from many remarkable and worthy entries. Many thanks to Reid Simmons (chair), Carnegie Mellon University, for his organizational efforts, and to all the judges, Dave Kortenkamp, Metrica TRACLabs; Martha Pollack, University of Michigan; and Holly Yanco, University of Massachusetts Lowell, for their generous donations of time and energy.

AAAI Returns to Canada!

The Twenty-Second AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-07) will be held July 22–26, 2007 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The Nineteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-07) will be collocated with AAAI. The AAAI-07 and IAAI-07 Calls for Technical Papers, Tutorial Proposals,

AAAI Conference Committee Chair
Yolanda Gil (USC / ISI)

AAAI-07 Program Cochairs
Robert C. Holte (University of Alberta)
Adele Howe (Colorado State University)

IAAI-07 Chair
William Cheetham (General Electric)

AI and the Web Track Cochairs
Tim Finin (University of Maryland at Baltimore)
Peter Norvig (Google, Inc.)

AAAI Nectar Cochairs
Elaine Rich (University of Texas at Austin)
Sven Koenig (University of Southern California)

Tutorial Forum Cochairs
Carla Gomes (Cornell University)
Andrea Danyluk (Williams College)

Workshop Program Cochairs
Simon Parsons (Brooklyn College, City University of New York)
Robert Givan (Purdue University)

Student Abstract and Poster Cochairs
Mehran Sahami (Google Inc.)
Kiri Wagstaff (Jet Propulsion Laboratory)
Matt Gaston (University of Maryland Baltimore County)

AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium Chair
Terran Lane (The University of New Mexico)

Intelligent Systems Demonstrations Cochairs
Rob Miller (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Holger Hoos (University of British Columbia)

Mobile Robot Competition & Exhibition Cochairs
Jeffrey Forbes (Duke University)
Paul Oh (Drexel University)

Workshop Proposals, Student Abstracts, Doctoral Consortium, Intelligent System Demonstrations, and Robot Competition participants are now available on the AAAI-07 and IAAI-07 web sites (aaai.org). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at aaai07@aaai.org.

Highly Successful Programs Continued

Several of the new programs introduced in 2006 proved to be highly successful, and will be continued in 2007, including the following:

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: As AI matures and becomes increasingly interdisciplinary, many of the AI community's most exciting results appear in the proceedings of AAAI's sister conferences and conferences in related fields. This track will highlight those results 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.

Special technical papers tracks: At least two special tracks will be held in 2007. The continuation of the Artificial Intelligence and the Web track has been confirmed. Other track(s) will be announced this fall on the conference site.

New Competitions: A poker competition was added to the program in 2006 and a general game-playing competition was added in 2005. At least one more competition is likely to be added in 2007.

A staggered submission schedule has been developed, with AAAI-07 technical papers due on February 6, 2007. Please refer to the list of important deadlines as well as the complete Call for Participation (www.aaai.org) for paper submission deadlines and other important guidelines. We hope to see you in Vancouver next summer!

AAAI Executive Council 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. All elected councilors are expected to attend at least two council meetings per year, and actively participate in AAAI activities. Nominees must be current members of AAAI. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. (Student and library members are not eligible to submit candidates' names.) 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 in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI members will vote in the late spring.

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, Suite 100, 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, 2006.

AIIDE-07

The Third Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area in early June 2007. The AIIDE-07 conference chair is Jonathan Schaeffer (University of Alberta, Canada).

AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between interactive entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic AI researchers. Sponsored by the American Associa-

tion 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-07 will include invited speaker sessions, paper presentation sessions, demonstration sessions, and exhibits. We invite researchers and developers to share their insights and cutting-edge results, and encourage the presentation of (1) results from core AI research areas applicable to interactive digital entertainment and (2) AI approaches developed and fielded in commercial systems. Please see aaai.org/Conferences/AIIDE/aiide07.php for more details and the complete call for papers.

Fall Symposia Registration

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence's 2006 Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, October 13–15, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The titles of the eight symposia will be:

- Aurally Informed Performance: Integrating Machine Listening and Auditory Presentation in Robotic Systems
- Capturing and Using Patterns for Evidence Detection
- Developmental Systems
- Image Comprehension
- Integrating Logical Reasoning into Everyday Applications
- Interaction and Emergent Phenomena in Societies of Agents
- Semantic Web for Collaborative Knowledge Acquisition
- Spacecraft Autonomy: Using AI to Expand Human Space Exploration

A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Saturday, October 14, and an informal reception will be held on Friday, October 13. Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. In addition to invited participants, a limited

*AAAI President-Elect and Fellow Eric Horvitz Meets with Andrew Arnold, Warren Schudy, Arnav Jhala,
and Hua Ai During the "Lunch with an AAAI Fellow" Program at AAAI-06.*

number of other interested parties will be allowed to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. Working notes will be prepared and distributed to participants in each symposium, but will not otherwise be available unless published as an AAAI Technical Report or edited collection.

The final deadline for registration is September 22, 2006. For registration information, please contact AAAI at fss06@aaai.org or visit AAAI's web site (www.aaai.org). A hotel room block has been reserved at the Hyatt Regency. The cut-off date for reservations is September 20, 2006. Please call 703-418-1234 or 800-233-1234 for further information.

Spring Symposia Participation Solicited

AAAI presents the 2007 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday through Wednesday, March 26–28, 2007, at Stanford University. The titles of the nine symposia are:

- Control Mechanisms for Spatial Knowledge Processing in Cognitive / Intelligent Systems
- Game Theoretic and Decision Theoretic Agents
- Intentions in Intelligent Systems
- Interaction Challenges for Artificial Assistants
- Logical Formalizations of Commonsense Reasoning
- Machine Reading
- Multidisciplinary Collaboration for Socially Assistive Robotics
- Quantum Interaction
- Robots and Robot Venues: Resources for AI Education

Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. Working notes will be prepared and distributed to participants in each symposium. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Tuesday, March 27, and an informal reception will be held on Monday, March 26. 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. Registration information will be available in mid-December. Please contact AAAI at sss07@aaai.org or visit our web site (aaai.org).

Submissions for the symposia are due on October 6, 2006. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 3, 2006. Material to be included in the working notes of the symposium must be received by January 26, 2007. The complete call for participation is available on the AAAI web site.

March 2006 Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council meeting was held March 26, 2006, in Palo Alto, California. Attending were Alan Mackworth, Ron Brachman, Steve Chien, Tony Cohn, Tim Finin, Lise Getoor, Yolanda Gil, Maria Gini, Eric Horvitz, Kevin Knight, Karen Myers, Ted Senator, Peter Stone, Sebastian Thrun, Carol Hamilton, and Mike Hamilton. Not attending were Oren Etzioni, Jim Hendler, Haym Hirsh, David Leake, Andrew Moore, and Illah Nourbakhsh.

The meeting was called to order by

AAAI President Alan Mackworth at 9:00 AM, and introductions were made by members of the Executive Council. The minutes of the previous meeting in July 2006, which had been circulated for review prior to the meeting, were formally approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance. Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator reported that Michael Kearns of the University of Pennsylvania had joined the Finance Committee. He also reported that the AAAI investment portfolio had an annual return of 2.8 percent for 2005, a three-year return of 10 percent, and 10-year return of 6.9 percent. The comparative return on investments was on target. The Finance Committee is currently investigating international investment options and adjustments in plans to reduce management fees. Senator noted that the Finance Committee makes an annual review of the performance of the three fund managers, and recommends changes as needed. The AAAI fund balance was reduced by 4.3 percent in 2005 due to withdrawals, and Senator recommended that the Council continue to reduce the deficit by improving revenue streams or cutting costs. Senator encouraged the Council to concentrate on budget issues as they relate to current programs. Finally, Senator proposed a formal process for Councilors and other members to request funds for new programs. A form is now available for this purpose from Carol Hamilton.

Awards / Fellows / Nominating. Past President Ron Brachman, who chairs all three of these committees reported that there had been an increase in Fellows nominations this year, with 28 total nominations to be considered. No more than 10 new Fellows can be elected each year. Decisions are expected in April. Eight candidates for AAAI Executive Council had been selected, and the ballot will be delivered to members in May. The Awards Committee had not made their selections yet for the Classic Paper Award and the Distinguished Service Award, and Brachman encouraged members of the Council to contact him with nominations.

Conference. AAAI-06 Program Cochair Yolanda Gil reported that she had thoroughly enjoyed the exhilaration of working with the committed members of the Senior Program Committee and organizing committee for AAAI-06. She and cochair Ray Mooney have continued many of the innovations of AAAI-05, and have added several new features, as reported at the last meeting. Submissions were down very slightly for the technical program, but this was more than made up for by the submissions to the special tracks on Artificial Intelligence and the Web and Integrated Intelligent Capabilities, as well as the Senior Member Papers and Nectar Papers. In all, the total number of papers submitted to AAAI-06 was 863, and the Member Abstracts were still to come. Response for each of these programs was very good. Papers for the two special tracks were reviewed like those for the main technical track, but had their own program chairs and committees. The program committee for AAAI-06, including AIW and IIC tracks, was greatly expanded to 40 senior PC members, 4 track cochairs, and 558 PC members, to reduce the burden on individual reviewers and to help anticipate reviewing needs in all areas. Additional track chairs and PC members were assigned for the Senior Member, Nectar, and Member papers and abstracts. Papers in all tracks will be integrated into the five technical tracks of the conference. IAAI-06 selected 6 deployed and 15 emerging applications for its program, which is collocated with AAAI. Outstanding paper, deployed application awards, and program committee awards will continue.

The invited speaker program is very strong with Tim Berners-Lee of the World Wide Web Consortium as the keynote speaker, as well as Karen Myers, Dan Roth, Pedro Domingos, and Ken Koedinger. IAAI-06 will include talks by Sebastian Thrun, Neil Jacobstein, and Bruce Buchanan, the winner of the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Award. The conference exhibit and competition program has expanded to include a new poker competition. In addition, the new student Participation Cochairs will run blogs and student forums, specifically aimed at enhancing the student experience at the conference. A small number of students will be able to sign up for lunch with a Fellow, as part of the 50th anniversary activities.

Regular registration rates will increase in 2006 by about 10 percent, and student fees by about 25 percent. In addition, there will be a workshop fee. Workshop attendees will still be required to register for the technical program.

Sponsorship for the conference was on track with 2005, but had not grown significantly. The effort had to be scaled down due to the resignation of the sponsorship chair. The Council discussed several alternatives to the current model of fund raising, and agreed that a more centralized effort, perhaps in conjunction with outreach efforts, needs to be organized for the future. Multi-year commitments by sponsors and the development of a group of corporate partners were suggested.

Gil plans to report to the Council on which new activities were successful after the conference. The Council also asked the Conference Committee to report on the new position of conference general chair, which was created primarily to assist with the fiftieth anniversary activities.

The Second Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment saw a slight drop in submissions. To encourage participation, the program chair, Jonathan Schaeffer, initiated a poster program for 2006. Invited speakers include Matt Brown (Maxis), Steven Crane (Midway), Richard Evans (Maxis), Craig Reynolds (Sony), Jonathan Gratch (USC/ICT), and Pieter Spronck (University of Maastricht, The Netherlands). Sponsorship is on a par with 2005. To encourage more participation, a proposal to collocate with a major graphics conference in 2007 was approved by the Council, subject to further consideration by the AIIDE organizing committee (this plan has since been changed).

Grants. Lise Getoor, who had recently become chair of the committee, announced that she was in the process of clarifying and perhaps redefining the goals of the committee, as well as the mission of the AAAI cooperation and sponsorship programs. She hoped to

systemize the process, by reviewing the definitions for AAAI conference sponsorship and developing a set of fees that could be posted on the web site. The committee then hopes to identify an appropriate list of sister conferences, and develop long-term affiliations with them that will be of mutual benefit. In the process, the committee may find that their mission is better defined as an Outreach activity. It is hoped that one benefit of this program will be coordination of submission and conference dates, as well as an expanded conference calendar.

Getoor also reported that AAAI anticipates a subsidy of approximately $40,000 for certain conference programs, including IS Demos, the Robot Competition, and the General Game Playing Competition, as well as student scholarships of $52,000 for the national conference and symposium programs.

Membership. Carol Hamilton reported that membership remained stable. In December 2005, AAAI purged many expired members from the database, and significantly narrowed the window during which a member can receive benefits without renewing. Alan Mackworth announced that he is seeking a replacement for Haym Hirsh, who will be rotating off the Council in the summer of 2006. The Council would like to see the committee initiate some creative and aggressive efforts to increase membership.

Symposium. Associate Chair Karen Myers noted that Holly Yanco had recently stepped down as Chair of the Symposium Committee, and that Alan Schultz had taken over for her. The Council expressed its deep appreciation for Holly's service over the past six years. Myers also reported that the fall and spring symposia both had good registration figures, and that the symposium seemed to be fulfilling its mission. The chair reported that it is still a challenge to find good proposals, and encouraged Council members to steer good proposals to the committee for review. Myers also reported that there will be no AI Funding seminar at the 2006 fall series.

Publications. Mike Hamilton reported that the next several issues of the magazine are in production, including special issues on achieving human-level intelligence through integrated systems and research (summer); selected papers from the innovative applications conference (fall); and mixed-Initiative assistants (winter). The winter issue is expected to also include some special features in recognition of the 50th anniversary, including a commemorative poster. Suggestions for specific images to include were solicited from the Council. Alan Mackworth thanked David Leake and Mike Hamilton for their significant efforts in bringing the historic 25th anniversary issue (winter 2005) to fruition.

The AAAI Press recently published *Thinking about Android Epistemology,* edited by Kenneth Ford, Clark Glymour, and Patrick Hayes. Other proposals for edited collections are under consideration. The Press also published 16 new symposium technical reports during the previous six months, and had three proceedings under production for ICAPS, FLAIRS, and KR. There is still considerable demand for the hard copy of the proceedings, so a "print on demand" model has been adopted to fulfill this need. The Press continues to publish the hard copy of *JAIR,* and an update on this activity will be circulated to the Publications Committee at their summer meeting.

AAAI launched a completely new web site at the beginning of 2006. A new server (located outside the office) is maintained by a professional web hosting company (AAAI does not share the server with any other clients). Considerable savings have been realized on Internet connection fees, even while adding 24/7 oversight, greater capacity, and a shopping cart to the web site. The new site will continue to evolve, and further enhancements will be made. It is hoped that the new configuration will allow better access, more consistent navigation, and enhanced features for AAAI members.

Old Business

The meeting continued with old business.

CRA Report

Tim Finin reported that the focus of CRA recent activities remains the same. They are seeking ways to address the pipeline issue of attracting more students into the field. They reported that enrollment is down in undergraduate programs, and the number of high school students taking the AP exam is also down. An effort needs to be made at the K-12 level to improve the image of the field, and to attract more women and minorities into it. CRA also monitors research and development funding and policies, and educates its members about these issues. Finin reported that NSF support is up, but it is unclear what direction DARPA will take in the near future. CRA is working with its members to articulate the R&D issues, including an effort to develop a reasonable policy on outsourcing. Eric Grimson was recently elected to the CRA Board.

Alan Mackworth reported that the annual leadership summit in February 2006 also focused on outreach and funding issues. AAAI has representatives on the two special task forces formed to address these issues — Andrew Moore (outreach) and Haym Hirsh (funding). The outreach task force has proposed a permanent home for some of the outreach effort at the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) at the University of Colorado campus. Funds are currently being raised to fund this initiative.

50th Anniversary Update

Plans for the two-day Fellows Symposium, to be held just prior to AAAI-06, are well underway. There has been an overwhelming response, and it is expected that over 90 Fellows will participate. Other activities include a AAAI Fellows Panel at the conference, as well as a blog about Open Scientific Questions that will gather suggestions and feedback from conference attendees.

AAAI-07 Update

The Council approved a proposal that AAAI provide the following special benefits to CSCSI in 2007: (1) a discount for CSCSI members (to the AAAI rate) at AAAI-07; (2) CSCSI/SCEIO listed as a AAAI-07 cosponsor; (3) AAAI will cosponsor AI-07, with $5,000 in student travel support; and (4) AAAI

will provide a table-top exhibit space to CSCSI at AAAI-06 and AAAI-07 for membership recruitment. These benefits are designed to offset any negative impact that bringing AAAI-07 to Vancouver might have on CSCSI's annual conference.

Outreach

Carol Hamilton reported that Jon Glick has been working with the organizers of the Computer Science for High Schools summer workshop at Carnegie Mellon. Glick prepared a list of pointers to resources of interest in AI TOPICS, and also put together some ideas for interesting curriculum contexts. He has been passing along other materials of interest to them, and will coordinate with Hamilton on packets for the attendees with *AI Magazine* and a welcome letter from the AAAI President.

IJCAI-09

Carol Hamilton reported that Rich Doyle of the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena has agreed to serve as the Local Arrangements Chair for IJCAI-09. He will begin recruiting members of the committee in the coming months, and a site visit of the Conference Committee will be planned for the fall of 2006. Carol Hamilton will be coordinating the logistics and budget for the conference.

AI Internationally

Alan Mackworth led a discussion about several issues regarding the international AI community. At a meeting of representatives of several national societies in Edinburgh in July 2005, there was general consensus that there was a need for a more organized international effort in the AI community. In addition, AAAI has seen several groups splinter off, partly because of international affilation concerns. After some discussion, the Council proposed that AAAI respond to the international issues facing the community and AAAI in recognition of its current membership, conference participation, and publications, all of which have significant international components. The Council charged the Executive Committee with exploring this issue further, and developing a proposal that would outline steps needed to address any future action, including a discussion with the AAAI Strategic Planning Committee.

New Business

Alan Mackworth welcomed the new councilors, including Maria Gini, Kevin Knight, Peter Stone, and Sebastian Thrun, whose terms officially started after the last Executive Council meeting.

IJCAI Affiliation

AAAI's ongoing agreement with IJCAI is up for renewal in 2007, and Alan Mackworth had been discussing the current structure with IJCAI representatives. Both organizations are anxious to continue this cooperation, and are exploring mutually beneficial ways that it can be enhanced in future years. At one point, IJCAI expressed an interest in perhaps making use of some of AAAI's administrative services as IJCAI's structure has grown more complex, but no agreement has been reached about this proposal.

MIT Film Project

Carol Hamilton announced that MIT has launched an extensive film project, funded by the National Science Foundation, that will archive film in the computer science department at MIT. The project coordinator, Tom Greene, is seeking help in identifying appropriate pieces of film for the project. In addition, he would like to coordinate with AAAI to conduct interviews of AAAI leaders and fellows, and add these to the archive.

AAAI White Paper

Carol Hamilton reported that Sara Hedberg hopes to put together a white paper on AI successes during the past 20 years. Neil Jacobstein will be presenting a talk on this issue at IAAI-06, so the plan is to wait and see if a companion piece makes sense. Several members of the Council expressed an interest in helping with this at the appropriate time.

AAAI Business Meeting Shift

The AAAI Annual Business meeting has traditionally been held at the end of the conference. However, because this means that the newly elected officers and councilors do not start their terms until after the summer Executive Council meeting, they cannot fully participate until almost a year after their election at the spring meeting. Therefore, the business meeting will shift to the lunch break during the Executive Council meeting at the conference. This will enable the new councilors to vote, if necessary, in the afternoon portion of the meeting. However, all retiring and new councilors are encouraged to attend the full meeting.

AAAI-08 Update

Carol Hamilton reported that the search for a suitable site for 2008 is continuing, with an effort to locate the conference in a mountain state, Midwestern, or southern site because of the two western locations in 2007 and 2009. (Originally, the University of California, San Diego had been investigated as a possible site.) The Council made several suggestions for potential sites, and it is hoped that the site will be finalized in the fall of 2006.

Strategic Planning Discussion

Ron Brachman opened the floor to a discussion of issues that the Strategic Planning Committee might consider at its summer meeting. All agreed that this committee should play a more active role in long-range planning for AAAI. One idea was to modify the make-up of the committee to include other key and active members of the society. Key issues for the committee include the role of AAAI in the international arena, and its relationships with other national and international societies; fragmentation of the field, and AAAI's role in helping to minimize the effects of this; ethical issues of AI; creating an archive of AI papers and other historical documents; working with a museum to create an ongoing AI exhibit; and creating a repository for teaching materials for AI.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.