

AAAI-11: The AAAI Conference Turns 25 in San Francisco!

AAAI is pleased to announce that the Twenty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-11) will be held at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco, California, August 7–11, 2011. You won't want to miss this milestone event, held for the very first time in the City by the bay. Details about the AAAI-11 program will be posted as they become available at www.aaai.org/aaai11. We hope to see you in San Francisco!

AAAI to Launch Open Access in 2009!

AAAI has launched a major initiative to open up access to the technical content of its digital library in 2009. AAAI conference proceedings and technical reports will be available to the international research community, and will be widely indexed on major search and indexing engines. Access to the contents of the *AI Magazine* will remain part of AAAI membership benefits. Please watch your email and visit www.aaai.org for full details about open access progress.

Earlier this year, we solicited feedback from you about your commitment to open access, and your response was overwhelmingly positive and helpful. We are especially grateful for your support of various methods to help fund this initiative. Therefore, in conjunction with the open access project, we have launched two other major programs, and watch for more in the coming months!

AAAI Gifts Program

It is the generosity and loyalty of our members that enable us to continue to provide the best possible service to the AI community and promote and further the science of artificial intelligence by sustaining the many and varied programs that AAAI provides. AAAI invites all members and other interested parties to consider a gift to help support the open access initiative, as well as the dozens of other pro-

grams that AAAI currently sponsors. For more information about the Gift Program, please see www.aaai.org/donate or write to us at donate09@aaai.org. We hope to welcome you to the President's Circle next year!

AAAI Membership Fund Drive — Recruit a Friend or Colleague for AAAI!

AAAI programs are largely supported through the ongoing loyalty of its 5,000 plus members. AAAI members enjoy a host of benefits, including the receipt of and online access to *AI Magazine*, access to the online AAAI Directory, discounted conference registrations at all AAAI conferences and symposia, as well as affiliated and co-operating conferences, discounted rates for AAAI publications, discounted subscription rates for sponsored journals, and eligibility for AAAI honors and scholarships. We encourage you to recruit a new member to AAAI, either through a gift via the AAAI Gift Program (see www.aaai.org/donate), or by asking your colleague to reference your name when joining at www.aaai.org/join. As a token of our appreciation, we will extend your AAAI membership by three months!

AAAI Membership Fee Increase

Please note that AAAI membership fees will increase as of January 1, 2009. The Executive Council has approved the following new rate structure, an

integral component of the AAAI Open Access Initiative. AAAI is pleased to report that this new fee structure reflects a 50 percent reduction in the postage surcharge for members outside the US and Canada, and an overall reduction in the international student fee. AAAI membership fees were last increased six years ago on January 1, 2003.

Regular US/Canada: \$120
Student US/Canada: \$50
Regular International: \$140
Student International: \$70
Institutional US/Canada: \$245
Institutional International: \$265
Institutional Online Option: \$250
Life US/Canada: \$1,705
Life International: \$1,985

AAAI Cosponsors IJCAI-09 in Pasadena, California

The Twenty-First International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-09), sponsored by the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) and the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), will be held July 11–17, 2009 in Pasadena, California. The IJCAI-09 Call for Papers is available at www.ijcai-09.org. Submissions are invited on significant, original, and previously unpublished research on all aspects of artificial intelligence. The theme of IJCAI-09 is "The Interdisciplinary Reach of Artificial Intelligence," with a focus on the broad impact of artificial intelligence on science, engineering, medicine, social sciences, arts and humanities.

IJCAI-09 electronic abstracts are due no later than January 7, 2009, and

electronic papers are due January 12, 2009. No late submissions will be accepted. Author registration is now available at the IJCAI-09 paper submission website, accessible via www.ijcai-09.org. Please read all registration and submission instructions carefully before submitting your abstract and paper. Papers that violate the submission guidelines will not be accepted for review. General submission inquiries can be directed to ijcai09@aaai.org.

IJCAI-09 Workshops

The IJCAI-09 Workshop Program list is now available at www.ijcai-09.org/workshops.html. Links to individual workshop calls for participation are available at this page. Workshop submissions are due March 6, 2009. Please follow the instructions for submission posted by the workshop you are interested in. Inquiries should be made directly to the individual organizers. The bulk of the workshop program will be held Saturday – Monday, July 11–13. Some workshops are cosponsored by the collocated Conference on Space Mission Challenges for Information Technology (SMC-IT 2009), and will be held between IJCAI-09 and SMC-IT later in the week.

IJCAI-09 Tutorials, Competitions, and More!

IJCAI-09 will host a wide variety of programs before, during, and after the main technical program. The list of IJCAI-09 Tutorials is now available at www.ijcai-09.org/tutorials.html. In addition, please watch the website for details about the Mobile Robot Challenge and Exhibition, Video Competition, the Poker Competition, and other exciting programs. For complete information on these programs, as well as IJCAI-09 registration and schedules, please visit the IJCAI-09 website or write to us at ijcai09@aaai.org.

Events Collocated with IJCAI-09

The following is a partial list of collocated events planned at this time. Please consult the IJCAI-09 website for updates.

The Twenty-First Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial

Intelligence. IAAI-09) will be held July 14–17, 2009 in Pasadena, California.

URL: www.aaai.org/iaai09

Author Registration: December 1, 2008 – January 20, 2009: Authors register on the IAAI web site

Paper Deadline: January 20, 2009: Electronic papers due

AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium. The Doctoral Consortium will be held July 12–13, 2009 in Pasadena, California.

URL: www.aaai.org/DC

Submission Deadline: February 6, 2009 (Application Packages due.)

Third IEEE International Conference on Space Mission Challenges for Information Technology. SMC-IT 2009 will be held July 19 - 23, 2009 in Pasadena, California.

URL: www.smc-it.org

The 2009 CRA-W Career Mentoring Workshop. Sponsored by the Computer Research Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research, this workshop will be held July 12–13, 2009.

The Twenty-Fifth International Conference on Logic Programming. ICLP'09 will be held July 14–17, 2009.

Symposium on Abstraction, Reformulation and Approximation. SARA 2009 will be held July 6–10, 2009 at Lake Arrowhead, California.

URL: tidel.mie.utoronto.ca/sara09/

AAAI Conference Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Scholar and Volunteer Programs for 2009. In IJCAI years, the Student Scholar Program provides partial travel support for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities in North America (IJCAI provides partial scholarships for eligible students living outside the North America); 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 15, 2009. In addition, repeat scholarship applicants must have fulfilled the volunteer and reporting requirements for previous awards. In the event that scholarship applications exceed available funds, preference will be given to students who have an accepted technical paper, and then to students who are actively participating in the conference in some way. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply.

After the conference, an expense report will be required to account for the funds awarded. For further information about the Scholarship Program, or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at scholarships09@aaai.org, or 445 Burgess Drive, Suite 100, Menlo Park, CA 94025 USA. Telephone: 1-650-328-3123. Information regarding the IJCAI-09 scholarship program is also available at scholarships09@aaai.org.

The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support IJCAI organizers in Pasadena. In 2009, 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 volunteer09@aaai.org. The deadline for volunteer applications is April 15, 2009.

ICWSM-09 Submissions Due January 21, 2009

The Third International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held at the San Jose Marriott in San Jose, California, May 17–20, 2009. The Conference Committee invites paper and poster and demo submissions from a broad array of disciplines, including computer science, linguistics, psychology, statistics, sociology, multimedia and semantic web technolo-

gies. For complete submission instructions, please see www.icwsm.org/2009.

Dataset Now Available

A collection of social-media data is available (www.icwsm.org/2009/data/) to researchers in the blog and social media fields. We invite you to download the dataset, explore it, learn something interesting about it, and submit a paper about it to ICWSM-09. Authors may submit their papers to the main ICWSM conference. Additionally, a workshop focused on the dataset will take place May 20, 2009, and workshop submissions will be due March 1 to maximize time needed to explore the dataset.

For more information about ICWSM-09, please write to icwsm09@aaai.org.

2009 Spring Symposium Series

The 2009 Spring Symposium Series will be held Wednesday – Friday, March 23–25 at Stanford University and will feature the following nine symposia:

- Agents that Learn from Human Teachers
- Benchmarking of Qualitative Spatial and Temporal Reasoning Systems
- Experimental Design for Real-World Systems
- Human Behavior Modeling
- Intelligent Event Processing
- Intelligent Narrative Technologies II
- Learning by Reading and Learning to Read
- Social Semantic Web: Where Web 2.0 Meets Web 3.0
- Technosocial Predictive Analytics

Registration information is available at www.aaai.org/spring. Please note that the deadline for registration for invited participants is February 6 and the general registration deadline is February 27.

2009 Fall Symposium Series

The 2008 Fall Symposium Series was a great success with over 225 participants. The 2009 Fall Symposium Series will return to the Westin Arlington

AAAI Member News

In Memoriam

AAAI notes with great sadness the passing of **Elise Hill Turner** (1959–2008), associate professor and chair of the University of Maine Department of Computer Science and codirector of the Maine Software Agents and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (MaineSAIL). Turner passed away Thursday, August 14, 2008, in Bangor, Maine, after a 7-year battle with biliary tract cancer (cholangiocarcinoma). She received her BA in computer science from Barnard College of Columbia University, her masters in computer science from Columbia, and her Ph.D. in computer science from Georgia Tech in 1989. After an initial appointment as an assistant professor at the University of New Hampshire, she began her appointment in the Computer Science Department at the University of Maine. Her research interests included natural language processing, discourse processing, multiagent systems, communication in multiagent systems, constraint satisfaction, planning in real-world systems, the interaction between planning and communication, cognitive science, and computer science education. Her close collaborator on much of her research was her husband and fellow professor, Roy Turner. She was a member of the ACM and IEEE, and had been a member of AAAI for more than 20 years.

As *AI Magazine* was in press, we were saddened to learn from the December 4, 2008 *New York Times* that AAAI fellow **Oliver G. Selfridge** (82) had died unexpectedly, the result of injuries sustained in a fall. A memorial is planned for a forthcoming issue of *AI Magazine*.

Kenneth Ford Named Chairman of the NASA Advisory Council

AAAI congratulates AAAI Fellow and AAAI Press editor-in-chief emeritus Kenneth M. Ford on his recent appointment as chairman of the NASA Advisory Council. The council, consisting of experts from various fields offering knowledge of the multitude of functions within the agency, provides advice to the NASA administrator on important program and policy matters related to the U.S. space program. Ford has been a member of the NASA Advisory Council since June 2007, serving on the Exploration Committee.

Ken Ford is founder and director of the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, a statewide not-for-profit research institute of the state university system of Florida. In January 1997, NASA asked Ford to develop and direct its new Center of Excellence in Information Technology at NASA's Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, Calif. He served as both associate center director and director of the Center of Excellence. Ford was awarded the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal in July 1999, and was recently the recipient of the AAAI 2008 Robert S. Englemore Memorial Award for his work in artificial intelligence.

IAAI-09 / IJCAI-09 Deadlines

Please mark these important deadlines on your calendar and consult the website for special program deadlines:

December 2008: Technical Authors register on the IJCAI and IAAI web sites
 January 7, 2009: IJCAI Electronic abstracts due
 January 12, 2009: IJCAI Electronic papers due
 January 20, 2009: IAAI Electronic papers due
 March 6, 2009: IJCAI-09 Workshop submissions due
 March 11, 2009: IAAI Notification of acceptance or rejection
 March 17–20, 2009: IJCAI Author feedback about initial reviews
 March 31, 2009: IJCAI Notification of acceptance or rejection
 March 31, 2009: IAAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office
 April 14, 2009: IJCAI Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office

AAAI E-mail Addresses

Please note that AAAI will be modifying its email addresses in 2009 in an effort to reduce the amount of spam that we are receiving. We will be adding 09 to all email addresses, as follows:

aiide09	aimagazine09
aitopics09	donate09
fellows09	fss09
iaai09	icwsm09
ijcai09	info09
membership09	orders09
press09	scholarships09
sss09	volunteer09
workshops09	

E-mail addresses will be updated on an annual basis. AAAI can also be reached by filling out the contact form at www.aaai.org/Contact/contact.php, by telephone at 1-650-328-3123, or by mail at 445 Burgess Drive, Suite 100, Menlo Park, CA 94025 USA

intelligence over at least a ten-year period. All regular members in good standing are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. At least two references must accompany nominations. The nominator or one of the references must be an 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 at 650-328-3123; by fax at 650-321-4457; or by e-mail at fellows09@aaai.org. Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/fellows. The deadline for nominations is February 13, 2009.

Subscribe to the AAAI Announcements List

To receive e-mail notification of important AAAI news and announcements and subscribe to AI Alert, please sign up at www.aaai.org/cgi-dada/mail.cgi.

AI Journal Access

Regular members of AAAI have enjoyed complimentary access to the *Artificial Intelligence Journal* for the past eight years. We are pleased to announce that this access has now been broadened to the international AI community through a partnership between *AI Journal* and IJCAI. AAAI is a sponsor of this access, and provides support for this process to continue.

If you have signed up for *AI Journal* by using your AAAI membership number, you will need to register again via the AI International access site at www.aiinternational.org/AIJ/register.php. A nontransferable link will be provided to you via e-mail once you have successfully registered on this site. This customized link will enable you to activate your free personal e-subscription to the journal *Artificial Intelligence* at Elsevier's Science Direct web site.

AAAI Job Bank

Check out the latest AI job postings at www.aaai.org/Jobs. Postings may also be submitted at the same site.

Gateway in Arlington, Virginia just outside of Washington, DC, Wednesday – Saturday, November 5–7. The symposium series will be preceded by the biennial AI funding seminar on Tuesday, November 4. Proposals for approximately eight symposia are now being accepted. Proposals should be sent no later than January 23, 2009 via e-mail to the symposium committee chair, Marjorie Skubic (University of Missouri) at skubicm@missouri.edu.

For the complete call for proposals, please see www.aaai.org/fall.

AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2009 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

New and Recent Books Available from AAAI Press

Twenty-Third AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence

Dieter Fox and Carla Gomes,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/aaai08.php

International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling 2008

Chris Beck and Eric Hansen,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/icaps08.php

Twenty-First International FLAIRS Conference

David Wilson and H. Chad Lane,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/flairs08.php

Eleventh International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning

Gerhard Brewka and Jérôme Lang,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/kr08.php

Second International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media

Natalie Glance and Matthew Hurst,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/icwsm08.php

International Conference on Computational Cultural Dynamics

V. S. Subrahmanian and Arie Kruglanski,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/icccd08.php

Fourth Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment International Conference

Michael Mateas and Chris Darken,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/aiide08.php

Thinking about Android Epistemology

Kenneth Ford, Clark Glymour,

and Patrick J. Hayes

www.aaai.org/Press/Books/ford.php



Call for Proposals

2009 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

November 4–7, 2009

Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, Virginia

*Sponsored by the Association for the
Advancement of Artificial Intelligence*

AAAI invites proposals for the 2009 Fall Symposium Series, to be held Thursday – Saturday, November 5–7 at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia adjacent to Washington, DC. The Symposium Series will be preceded on Wednesday, November 4 by a one-day AI funding seminar. The Fall Symposium Series provides the AI community with a unique venue in which researchers from different areas of AI can present speculative work and work in progress, hold focused discussions over several days, build new communities for emerging disciplines, and build ties between existing disciplines.

The series brings together a set of two and one-half day symposia at a common site, providing a unique and intimate forum for colleagues in a given discipline. The series also provides an important gathering point for the AI community as a whole. Efforts are made to keep registration and lodging costs low so that graduate students can afford to attend. The series is designed to minimize the administrative burden on the organizing committees of the individual symposia. AAAI manages registration and local arrangements, and provides organizational support, publicity within the AAAI community, and publication of working notes for distribution within the symposium and (optionally) the community at large.

The series runs twice yearly (spring and fall). Approximately eight symposium topics will be selected for the 2009 Fall Symposium Series. Accepted proposals will be distributed as widely as possible over the subfields of AI, and balanced between theoretical and applied topics. Symposia bridging theory and practice and those combining AI and related fields are particularly solicited.

Proposals for symposia should be between two and five pages in length, and should contain the following:

A title for the symposium.

A description of the symposium, identifying specific areas of interest, and, optionally, general symposium format. The symposia are intended to encourage presentation of speculative work and work in progress, as well as completed work. Therefore, ample time should be scheduled for discussion. Novel programming, including the use of target problems, open-format panels, working groups, or breakout sessions, is encouraged.

The names and (physical and electronic) addresses of the organizing committee, preferably three or more people at different sites, all of whom have agreed to serve on the committee.

A list of potential participants who have been contacted and who have expressed interest in participating. A common way of gathering potential participants is to send email messages to email lists related to the topic(s) of the symposium. Note that potential participants need not commit to participating, only state that they are interested.

Ideally, the entire organizing committee should collaborate in producing the proposal. If possible, a draft proposal should be sent out to a few of the potential participants and their comments solicited.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Symposium Series Standing

Committee (chair: Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri-Columbia; cochair: Chad Jenkins, Brown University; and associate chair: Holly Yanco, University of Massachusetts Lowell).

The criteria for acceptance of proposals includes the following:

Perceived interest to the AAAI community. Although AAAI encourages symposia that cross disciplinary boundaries, a symposium must be of interest to some community within the AAAI membership. Symposia that are of interest to a broad range of AAAI members are, of course, also encouraged.

Expected size. Although the series supports a range of symposium sizes (roughly 25-70), the target size is around 40 participants.

Lack of established venues on the topic. The AAAI Symposium Series is intended to nurture emerging communities and topics, so topics that already have yearly conferences or workshops are inappropriate.

Qualifications of the organizing committee. The organizing committee should have (1) a good technical knowledge of the topic, (2) good organizational skills, and (3) connections to the various communities from which they intend to draw participants. Committees for cross-disciplinary symposia should adequately represent the disciplines to be covered by the symposium.

Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than January 23, 2009. Proposals that are submitted significantly before this deadline can be in draft form. Comments on how to improve and complete the proposal will be returned to the submitter in time for revisions to be made before the deadline. Notifications of acceptance or rejection will be sent to submitters around February 6, 2009.

The submitters of accepted proposals will become the chairs of the symposium, unless alternative arrangements are made. Symposium organizing committees are responsible for the following:

- Writing short calls for participation and registration, which AAAI will distribute to its membership
- Additional publicity of the symposium, especially to potential audiences from outside the AAAI community
- Reviewing requests to participate in the symposium and determining symposium participants
- Collecting submissions for the symposium technical reports from the selected participants
- Scheduling the activities of the symposium
- Preparing a short review of the symposium, to be published in *AI Magazine*.

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

Marjorie Skubic
University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri
skubicm@missouri.edu