

Editorial

AAAI Leadership Transition

Martha Pollack and Henry Kautz

AAI's leadership underwent a major change in March of this year. Martha Pollack, who had been serving as AAAI president since July 2009 resigned her position, and Henry Kautz, who had been serving as AAAI president-elect assumed the duties and responsibilities of the president. As stipulated in the AAAI bylaws, Kautz will serve in this capacity until the 2010 AAAI annual business meeting, after which he will begin his full two-year term as president, starting one year ahead of schedule. In addition, Eric Horvitz, who has already served one year as AAAI past president, has agreed to serve one additional year so that the position will remain filled throughout Kautz's tenure as president. An election will be held this year for the now-open position of president elect.

Martha Pollack:

It was with great regret that I came to the decision that I had to resign my position as president of AAAI. Over the past three years, my professional circumstances have changed dramatically, and I found that I was no longer able to offer the AAAI the kind of attention that is required in the president's role. More specifically, when I was nominated for and then elected to office as AAAI president-elect in the spring of 2007, I was a faculty member and associate chair of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan (UM), and was still very active as an AI researcher and educator. Shortly thereafter, I was named dean of the School of Information at UM. In that role, my involvement in AI research and teaching decreased more than I had imagined, but I was still able to do a credible job as president-elect and then president of AAAI. This past February, I was named Vice Provost for Academic and Budgetary Affairs at the UM, effective July 1. The responsibilities that this job will entail, and the fact that it will lead me even further from the sort of active involvement in research that the president of AAAI should have, combined to make it prudent for me to resign my presidency. AAAI deserves a leader who can give to it more attention and, at least as important, more engagement in and cur-

rency with AI research than I will be able to provide going forward.

AAAI is a very strong organization, and Eric Horvitz, Henry Kautz, Ted Senator, and Carol Hamilton form a terrific leadership team. I am enormously grateful to the four of them for their support during my presidency and during this period of transition. This is an especially exciting time for the field of artificial intelligence, with important research results being generated all the time, and I'm sure that the field, and AAAI as its leading scientific society, will both continue to thrive.

Henry Kautz:

I endorse Martha's deeply held belief that AAAI should have a president who has time to fully engage with the organization and its constituents, and will do my best to be the kind of activist officer that she originally intended to be. I am particularly grateful that Eric Horvitz has agreed to extend his term as past-president, and look forward to working with and learning from him. Research in artificial intelligence is in a new golden age, as advances across the field have made the extraordinary – such as autonomous cars and automated natural language translation – practically commonplace. I look forward to helping AAAI grow in size and strengthen its intellectual, educational, and political leadership.

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*Dieter Fox and Carla Gomes,
Program Chairs*

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

International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling 2010

Edited by Ronen Brafman, Héctor Geffner, Jörg Hoffmann, and Henry Kautz

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/icip10.php

Twenty-Third International FLAIRS Conference

*Hans Guesgen and R. Charles Murray,
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www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/flairs10.php

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International Conference on Computational Cultural Dynamics

*Dana Nau and Aaron Mannes,
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www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/icccd09.php

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www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/aiide09.php

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www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/sara09.php