AAAI News

Summer News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

AAAI-14 / IAAI-14 / EAAI-14

We hope you are planning to join us for AAAI-14, and collocated events IAAI-14 and EAAI-14, in Québec City, Quebéc, Canada, July 27–31, 2014. The AAAI-14 technical program will kick off with the opening reception at the Québec City Convention Centre on the evening of Monday, July 28. This year the technical program will commence immediately following the reception with the AAAI/IAAI Joint Invited Talk by Adam Cheyer, Siri: Back to the Future. On Tuesday morning, July 29, the program chairs will welcome attendees, and conference and AAAI awards will be presented. The Presidential Address by Manuela Veloso will be delivered on Wednesday, July 30, at 1:00 PM.

The AAAI-14 program will feature invited talks by Cynthia Breazeal (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Michael Kearns (University of Pennsylvania), Padhraic Smyth (University of California, Irvine), and Milind Tambe (University of Southern California). The recipient of the 2014 Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Award, Craig Knoblock (University of Southern California), will deliver his lecture, on Tuesday, July 29 during IAAI-14, and Ron Kaplan (Nuance Communications) will address the IAAI-14 conference on Wednesday, July 30.

New and Returning to AAAI-14!

AAAI-14 will introduce many innovations and will feature several new programs. The technical program will include a conference-wide poster session, comprising posters for all 398 accepted papers, which will be available for viewing throughout the three days of the technical program. Authors presenting oral talks will do so in two ways: traditional 15-minute presentations in parallel sessions, and short 2.5-minute presentations in a series of plenary sessions.

AAAI-14 will also feature many new collocated programs, including the CRA-W/CDC Broadening Participation in AI event, promoting increased participation of women and members of other underrepresented groups in AI research. A special women's lunch on Tuesday, July 29 is open to all women attending AAAI (preregistration required), and other special events are planned. For more information, please see www-users.cs.umn.edu/~gini/aaai14/.

In addition to the return of Puzzle Night on Tuesday, July 29 (also including some new challenges!), the entertainment portion of the program is expanding to include a Speed Dating event, scheduled for 5:00 PM on Wednesday, July 30, designed to promote opportunities for networking, mentoring, and sharing research. Speed Dating will be followed by the AAAI-14 Conference Fête, open to all AAAI registrants, at Le Théâtre and Le Cabaret du Capitole de Québec, a five-minute walk from the Convention Centre. Established in 1903 and located in the heart of Old Québec, this unique urban architectural building is considered the loveliest banquet hall in Québec City. The connecting Cabaret is the old Cinéma de Paris and has a charming Art Deco style. A jazz trio will perform, and heavy hors d'oevres and desserts will be served along with a complimentary beverage.

The exhibition program has expanded to include the joint AAAI/CogSci Robotics Exhibition, which will span both AAAI and the final day of the Cognitive Science 2014 Con-

ference, immediately preceding AAAI. The program will feature teams from both research and commercial arenas, showcasing progress from the last five years with demos, research platforms, educational tools, spin-offs, and consumer robots.

Two special tracks are returning to AAAI-14, including the very popular "What's Hot" track, presenting exciting recent advances and current challenges in subareas of AI with major conferences of their own. This year the program is expanded to include speakers from areas that are "hot" but do not have a conference of their own. In addition to presentations by representatives of several well-established conferences, AAAI will also welcome talks by Ken Barker on Challenges beyond Factoid Question Answering and Volodymyr Mnih's talk on What's Hot in Reinforcement Learning.

In addition, the return of the Senior Member track provides an opportunity for established researchers to give a broad talk on a well-developed body of research or an important new research area. These 11 presentations will provide a big picture view, in contrast to the regular contributions that focus on a specific contribution.

The Tuesday evening conference-wide poster session will feature student abstracts, doctoral consortium abstracts, robotic demos, and poker competition posters. The week is filled with a host of other programs, including the AI Video Competition, the AI Poker Competition, the International General Game Playing Competition, and an extensive tutorial and workshop program.

The IAAI-14 technical program will feature talks on seven award-winning deployed AI applications and 14 emerging applications, and will run in parallel with the AAAI-14 technical program. The fifth AAAI Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI) will provide a venue for researchers and educators to discuss pedagogical issues and share resources related to teaching AI and using AI in education across a variety of curricular levels (K–12 through postgraduate training), with an emphasis on undergraduate and graduate teaching and learning. EAAI-14 will be held on Monday and Tuesday, July 28-29, and will feature invited talks, technical papers and posters, as well as a special session on Model AI Assignments suitable for use in a variety of class settings. EAAI-14 posters will also be included in the conference-wide poster session on Tuesday evening.

Registration for AAAI-14, IAAI-14, and EAAI-14, and the tutorial program is included in one joint fee. Workshop registration is extra. For complete conference program and registration information, please visit www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2014/aaai14registration.php. AAAI has reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton Québec. Please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2014/aaai14hotel.php for further information on how to reserve your room. To qualify for the discounted rate, your reservation must be completed no later than Friday, June 25, 2014 (5:00 PM local hotel time (EDT)).

We hope to see you in Québec City!

AAAI-15 Is Just Around the Corner!

We invite your participation at the Twenty-Ninth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, the First Winter AAAI, to be held in Austin, Texas, USA, January 25–29, 2015. The program chairs for AAAI-15, Sven Koenig and Blai Bonet, have instituted many innovations for this inaugural winter conference, incorporating them into all the successful components of past conferences. Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

- September 10, 2014: Electronic abstracts due
- September 15, 2014: Electronic papers due
- October 22 - 24, 2014: Author feedback about initial reviews
- November 7, 2014: Notification of acceptance or rejection
- November 20, 2014: Camera-ready copy due at AAAI office

The preliminary Call for Papers, including an overview of the special tracks and a preview of planned innovations is available at www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2015/aaai15call.php.
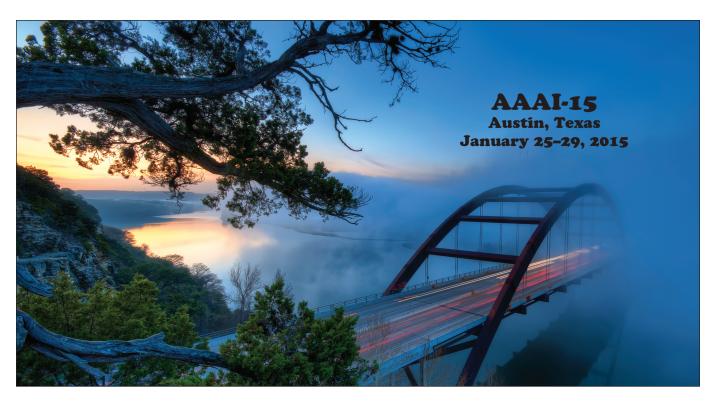
Just some of the special innovations for AAAI-15 Technical Program include resubmissions of substantially improved AAAI-14 submissions; demonstrations; and easily accessible papers (small meetings with the authors at AAAI-15)

AAAI-15 will again feature several special tracks, including AI and the Web, Cognitive Systems, Computational Sustainability, and Integrated Systems, as well as the following programs and innovations (this is a preliminary list):

Tutorial Program

The Tutorial Program for AAAI-15 will feature an expanded scope in topics and "hands-on tutorials," including exercises for participants to solve during the tutorials.

Tutorial proposals are due August 15, 2014.

AAAI-15
Austin, Texas
January 25–29, 2015

Workshop Program

New for AAAI-15 is a drive for submission of proposals for interdisciplinary workshops, encouraging participation by organizers and attendees from disciplines other than AI.

Proposals for workshops are due June 1.

Senior Member Presentation Track

New for AAAI 15 in the Senior Member Presentation Track is the "blue sky ideas" track. The Computing Community Consortium (CCC) will provide Grants for the best three proposals in this track.

Electronic submissions of talks and papers are due October 8.

AAAI/SIGAI Doctoral Consortium

The AAAI/SIGAI Doctoral Consortium will be expanded for 2015 to involve more international participation.

The application package submission deadline is September 22.

Student Abstract and Poster Program

NEW for the Student Abstract and Poster Program is the 3-minute presentation contest and the best poster award.

Electronic Abstracts are due September 23.

AI Video Competition

Collaborating with other AAAI-15 Programs, the AI Video Competition will give increased visibility to contributions also featured in the main track, demos track, robotics track, or another AAAI-15 event.

The AI Video Competition submission deadline is October 15.

AAAI-15 Demos Program

This new program for 2015 will highlight existing ideas and foster new ideas for new systems among researchers and practitioners. The AAAI-15 Demonstration Program Registration and abstract deadline is September 10. The paper deadline is September 15.

AAAI-15 Robotics Program

The call for the Robotics Exhibition is forthcoming, and many additional robotics activities are being planned as well.

For more information about AAAI-15 as it develops, please visit www.aaai.org/aaai15, or contact AAAI at aaai15@aaai.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Austin next January!

2014 AAAI
Fall Symposium Series

The 2014 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 13-15, at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The titles of the seven symposia are:

• Artificial Intelligence for Human-Robot Interaction

hcomp 2014

Join Us in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for HCOMP 2014!

The Second AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP-2014) will be held November 2–4 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. HCOMP-2013 is cross-disciplinary, aimed at promoting the scientific exchange of advances in human computation and crowdsourcing among researchers, engineers, and practitioners across a spectrum of disciplines. The conference was created to serve as a key focal point and scholarly venue for the review and presentation of the highest quality work on principles, studies, and applications of human computation. The meeting seeks and embraces work on human computation and crowdsourcing in multiple fields, including human-centered fields like human-computer interaction, cognitive psychology, economics, management science, and social computing, and technical fields like databases, systems, information retrieval, optimization, vision, speech, robotics, machine learning, and planning.

The conference, to be held November 2-4 at the Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, will include presentations of new research, works-in-progress and demo sessions, and invited talks. (Submissions to the non-archival work-in-progress and demo tracks are due July 25.) A day of workshops and tutorials will precede the main conference on November 2.

Complete registration and hotel information will be available in August at www.humancomputation.com/2014/. The early registration deadline will be September 12. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Omni is October 2, 2014. The discounted room rate of $149.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date.

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence will be held at 12:00 PM, Thursday, July 31, 2014 in the Quebec City Convention Centre during AAAI-14. All AAAI members are welcome.

- Energy Market Prediction
- Expanding the Boundaries of Health Informatics Using AI (HIAI'14): Making Personalized and Participatory Medicine A Reality
- Knowledge, Skill, and Behavior Transfer in Autonomous Robots
- Modeling Changing Perspectives: Reconceptualizing Sensorimotor Experiences

- Natural Language Access to Big Data (NLA2BD 2014)
- The Nature of Humans and Machines: A Multidisciplinary Discourse
- Plan Activity and Intent Recognition (PAIR)

Symposia will be limited to between forty and seventy-five participants each. Participation will be open to active participants as well as other interested individuals on a first-come, first-served basis. Complete registration and hotel information will be available in August at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss14.php. Invited participants must register by September 18, and the final registration deadline is October 16. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Westin is 5:00 PM EDT, October 15, 2014. The discounted room rate of $179.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date. Contact information for the Westin will be included in the registration materials.

Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment

The Tenth AAAI Conference on
Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment

Please join us for AIIDE-14, to be held October 3-7, 2014 at the North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. 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 invites researchers and developers to share insights and cutting-edge results from a wide range of AI-related problems and encourages 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. The program will include invited speakers, research and practitioner presentations, playable experiences, project demonstrations, interactive poster sessions, product exhibits, and a doctoral consortium.

The second edition of the Playable Experiences track will include presentations by indie developers, industry developers, and researchers who are developing innova-

tive AI-based games or other interactive media ("playable experiences") that involve some articulable innovation in the use of AI directly affecting the user's experience. Demonstrations of playable experiences will be presented in conjunction with the evening poster/demo session at the conference.

The very popular workshop program will feature six workshops this year, including Artificial Intelligence in Adversarial Real-Time Games, Experimental AI for Games, Games and NLP (GAMNLP-14), Research in Cognitive-based Approaches to Intelligent Interactive Digital Entertainment, Musical Metacreation (MUME'14), and the First Workshop on Diversity in Games Research. This last workshop is designed to encourage undergraduate and graduate students from under-represented groups to engage in graduate training in games research and to better prepare them for entry into an academic research career in this subfield. Workshop submissions are due July 10. Registration information and other program details will be available on the AIIDE-14 website at www.aiide.org/ later this summer. Please send inquiries to aiide14@aaai.org, to Conference Chair Ian Horswill (Northwestern University).

ICWSM-15 Dates Announced!

Following the very successful Eighth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media, which was held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, June 1-4, ICWSM recently announced the dates and venue for ICWSM-15. The Ninth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media will be held May 25–28, 2015 at the University of Oxford, in Oxford, England. Mark your calendars now for what promises to be a special week. The Call for Papers will be available soon at www.icwsm.org. ICWSM brings together researchers working at the nexus of computer science and the social sciences, with work drawing upon network science, machine learning, computational linguistics, sociology and communication. The broad goal of ICWSM is to increase understanding of social media in all its incarnations. For more information, please write to AAAI at icwsm15@aaai.org.

AAAI 2015
Spring Symposium Series

The 2015 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 23-25, 2015 at Stanford University. The Call for Participation will be available in August on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss15.php). Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 2, 2014. For more information, please contact Symposium Chair, Matt Taylor, at sss15chairs@aaai.org or AAAI at sss15@aaai.org. A preliminary list of symposia will be available at the SSS-15 website in July.

Executive Council Nominations

Every year four new councilors are elected to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate 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 of 2015.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, phone number, and email address to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 2275 East Bayshore Road, Suite 160, Palo Alto, CA 94303, USA; by fax to 650/321-4457; or by email 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, 2014.

2015 AAAI Award Nomination
Deadline Shifts to the Fall!

Please note that due to the shift of the AAAI conference to the winter timeframe, nominations for all AAAI honors and awards will be due on September 15, 2014.

AAAI Fellows Nominations
Solicited

The 2015 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. At least 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 at 650-328-3123; by fax at 650-321-4457; or by email at fellows15@aaai.org. Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php. The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2015.

2015 Feigenbaum Prize

The AAAI Feigenbaum Prize is awarded biennially to recognize and encourage outstanding Artificial Intelligence research advances that are made by using experimental methods of computer science. The "laboratories" for the experimental work are real-world domains, and the power of the research results are demonstrated in those domains. The Feigenbaum Prize may be given for a sustained record of high-impact seminal contributions to experimental AI research; or it may be given to reward singular remarkable innovation and achievement in experimental AI research. The prize is $10,000 and is provided by the Feigenbaum Nii Foundation. Nominations for the Feigenbaum Prize are due September 15, 2014. All nominations must be accompanied by at least one letter of support. The nomination form is available at www.aaai.org/Awards/feigenbaum.php.

2015 Special
Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its two special awards in 2015, and is currently seeking nominations for the 2015 AAAI Classic Paper Award, and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award. The 2015 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Fourteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1997 in Providence, Rhode Island. The 2015 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-15 in Austin, Texas, USA. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php. The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2015. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

AAAI Member News

The Member News feature of *AI Magazine* is expanding! Special items of note will be featured on the AAAI home page each month. In addition, AAAI is in the process of compiling a permanent list recipients of highly prestigious awards, which will also be published on the website. To send your news item or award information to AAAI, please contact Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, at hamilton@aaai.org.

Judea Pearl Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

AAAI is delighted to announce that AAAI Fellow Judea Pearl, professor emeritus, computer science department, University of California, Los Angeles has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences for his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Professor Pearl is among 84 new members and 21 foreign associates from 15 countries elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that was established under a congressional charter signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. For more information, please see www.nasonline.org/news-and-multimedia/news/april-29-2014-NAS-Election.html.

AAAI Congratulates Robert Schapire on his Election to the National Academy of Engineering!

AAAI Fellow Robert Schapire, David M Siegel '83 Professor in Computer Science at Princetion, University, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering. Professor Schapire is being honored for his contributions to machine learning through invention and development of boosting algorithms. Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to "engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature," and to the "pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education." Founded in 1964, the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) is a private, independent, nonprofit institution that provides engineering leadership in service to the nation. The mission of the National Academy of Engineering is to advance the well-being of the nation by promoting a vibrant engineering profession and by marshalling the expertise and insights of eminent engineers to provide independent advice to the federal government on matters involving engineering and technology. For more information on the 2014 election, please see www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=02062014

AAAI Fellow Bonnie Dorr Joins IHMC

Bonnie Dorr has joined the Florida Institute for Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC) as an associate director and senior research scientist at IHMC's Ocala facility. Natural language processing is a growing research field at IHMC, and Dr. Dorr's extensive research and project management experience includes deep language understanding and semantics, large-scale multilingual processing (including machine translation), and summarization. Dr. Dorr joins IHMC from the University of Maryland, where she was a professor in the Institute for Advanced Computer Studies and the Department of Computer Science. She was an associate dean of the College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, and cofounded the Computational Linguistics and Information Processing Laboratory. She was also principal scientist for two years at the Johns Hopkins University Human Language Technology Center of Excellence. In 2011 she became a program manager at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), overseeing research in human language technology. Her significant DARPA projects include Broad Operational Language Translation (BOLT), Deep Exploration and Filtering of Text (DEFT), Multilingual Automatic Document Classification, Analysis, and Translation (MADCAT), and Robust Automatic Transcription of Speech (RATS).

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 programs that AAAI currently sponsors. For more information about the Gift Program, please see www.aaai.org/Forms/donate.php or write to us at donate14 @aaai.org.

Support AAAI Open Access

AAAI wishes to thank you for your ongoing support of the open access initiative and all AAAI programs through the continuation of your AAAI membership. We count on you to help us deliver the latest information about artificial intelligence to the scientific community. To enable us to continue this effort, we invite you to consider an additional gift to AAAI. For information on how you can contribute to the open access initiative, please see www.aaai.org and click on Gifts.

Visit the New AAAI Member Site and Create Your Own Circle!

We encourage you to explore the features of the new AAAI Member website (aaai.memberclicks.net), where you can renew your membership in AAAI and update your contact information directly. In addition, you are directly connected with other members of the largest worldwide AI community via the AAAI online directory and other social media features. Direct links are available for new *AI Magazine* features, such as the online and app versions. Finally, you will receive announcements about all AAAI upcoming events, publications, and other exciting initiatives. Be sure to spread the word to your colleagues about this unique opportunity to tap into the premier AI society!

AAAI Senior Member Grade of Membership

AAAI is now taking applications from regular members for the AAAI Senior Member grade of membership. This status is designed to recognize members who have achieved significant accomplishments within the field of artificial intelligence. To be eligible for nomination for Senior Member, candidates must be consecutive members of AAAI for at least five years and have been active in the professional arena for at least ten years. Applications should include information that details the candidate's scholarship, leadership, and/or professional service. At least two references, one of which must be written by a AAAI Fellow or a current AAAI Senior Member must accompany the senior member application. References should be submitted by colleagues who know the candidate, and are familiar with their work and accomplishments. Each year a maximum of 25 members will be elected to the Senior status. All applications and references must conform to the requirements listed on the form, and must be received by September 15, 2014. For complete details and an application form, please see www.aaai.org/Awards/senior.php, or contact Carol Hamilton at seniormember15@aaai.org.

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