AAAI News

Spring News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

Congratulations to the 2015 AAAI Fellows!

Each year a small number of fellows are recognized for their unusual distinction in the profession and for their sustained contributions to the field for a decade or more. An official dinner and ceremony was held in their honor during AAAI-15 in Austin, Texas. The honorees for 2015 were as follows.

Rama Chellappa (University of Maryland)
For significant contributions to Markov random fields, 3D recovery from single and mutiple images and image/video-based recognition

Marco Dorigo (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
For seminal contributions to the foundations of swarm intelligence, including ant colony optimization and swarm robotics

Holger H. Hoos (University of British Columbia)
For significant contributions to the field of automated reasoning and the development of widely used methods for algorithm selection and configuration

Adele E. Howe (Colorado State University)
For significant contributions to the theory, practice and evaluation of automated planning, scheduling and other AI technologies, as well as service to the AI community

Thorsten Joachims (Cornell University)
For significant contributions to the theory and practice of machine learning and information retrieval

AAAI Congratulates New Senior Members!

AAAI announced its new class of AAAI Senior Members at the recent AAAI-15 Conference in Austin. Senior Member status is designed to recognize AAAI 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. AAAI congratulates the new Senior Members:

Susan Craw (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK)

Stan Franklin (University of Memphis, USA)

Yong Gao (University of British Columbia Okanagan, Canada)

Helen M. Gigley, Ph.D. (Central Intelligence Agency (retired), USA)

David B. Leake (Indiana University, USA)

Mausam (Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India)

Yi L. Murphey (University of Michigan Dearborn, USA)

Leo J. Obrst (The MITRE Corporation, USA)

Doina Precup (McGill University, Canada)

David S. Touretzky (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)

Franz Wotawa (Technische Universität Graz, Austria)

Congratulations to the 2015 AAAI Award Winners!

Tom Dietterich, AAAI President, Manuela Veloso, AAAI Past President and Awards Committee Chair, and Rao Kambhampati, AAAI President-Elect, presented the AAAI Awards in January at AAAI-15 in Austin.

The 2015 AAAI Classic Paper Award

The 2015 AAAI Classic Paper Award was given to the author(s) of the most influential paper(s) from the Fourteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1997 in Providence, Rhode Island, USA. The 2015 recipient of the AAAI Classic Paper Award is Eugene Charniak, who was honored for his paper, Statistical Parsing with a Context-Free Grammar and Word Statistics, and its significant contributions to sentence parsing and language models based on probabilities of possible alternative parses. In addition, honorable mention was presented to Roberto J. Bayardo Jr. and Robert C. Schrag for their paper, Using CSP Look-Back Techniques to Solve Real-World SAT Instances, for its significant contributions to enhance proof procedures for propositional satisfiability on large instances of real-world problems.

Eugene Charniak is a professor of computer science. and cognitive science at Brown University. He received an A.B. degree in physics from University of

2015 AAAI Feigenbaum Prize
Awarded to Eric Horvitz

AAAI is delighted to announce that Eric Horvitz, Distinguished Scientist and Managing Director, Microsoft Research, has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 AAAI Feigenbaum Prize. Dr. Horvitz is being recognized in particular for sustained and high-impact contributions to the field of artificial intelligence through the development of computational models of perception, reflection and action, and their application in time-critical decision making, and intelligent information, traffic and healthcare systems.

Eric Horvitz, MD, PhD is a distinguished scientist and managing director of the Redmond Lab at Microsoft Research. He pursues principles and applications of machine learning and intelligence — with forays into decision science, human-computer interaction, and cognitive psychology. His research includes efforts to harness large-scale data resources to build systems that predict outcomes, and methods for using these predictions to guide decisions and policies in healthcare and other domains. A major thread of Dr. Horvitz's work centers on using machine intelligence to complement and augment human intellect. His work and collaborations have led to fielded systems in multiple domains, including systems in use at hospitals across the world for predicting patient outcomes based on data drawn from electronic health records. Beyond traditional sources of health data, Dr. Horvitz is interested in methods for making crisp inferences about health and well-being from noisy signals drawn from social media and logs of web searching and browsing. Dr. Horvitz has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), AAAI, and the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). He was recently elected to ACM SIGCHI's CHI Academy for contributions at the intersection of machine intelligence and human-computer interaction. He has served on multiple academic and governmental advisory boards, including the advisory committee for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) CISE Directorate, the Computing Community Consortium (CCC), and DARPA's ISAT study group. Dr. Horvitz has also served as president of the AAAI and is now serving as the chair of the AAAS Section on Information, Computing, and Communication. Eric Horvitz and his wife Mary recently funded the AI100 which is an effort hosted by Stanford University which invites leading thinkers from several institutions to begin a 100-year effort to study and anticipate the effects of artificial intelligence will have on our lives. Dr. Horvitz received his MD and PhD degrees at Stanford University.

The AAAI Feigenbaum Prize was established in 2010 and is awarded biennially to recognize and encourage outstanding Artificial Intelligence research advances that are made by using experimental methods of computer science. The associated cash prize of $10,000 is provided by the Feigenbaum Nii Foundation.

reasoning under uncertainty, and learning. Over the last few years he has been interested in statistical techniques for language understanding. His research in this area has included work in the subareas of part-of-speech tagging, probabilistic context-free grammar induction, and, more recently, syntactic disambiguation through word statistics, efficient syntactic parsing, and lexical resource acquisition through statistical means.

Roberto Bayardo joined Google as a research scientist in 2005, and is currently an engineering director in the search ads quality group. Prior to Google, he worked as a research staff member at IBM Almaden following his graduation from the University of Texas at Austin. Bayardo's current research interests reside primarily in the areas of data mining, big data analysis, and computational advertising. He regularly serves on the program committees for conferences related to these areas including KDD, ICDM, WSDM, and WWW.

Robert Schrag is a scientist at Haystax Technology, where he leads development of semantically based risk assessment solutions. His work has included implementations and applications of temporal and probabilistic representation and reasoning, and he has led several program-wide evaluations of government-sponsored research. He has held research positions at Global InfoTek, Information Extraction and Transport, the Honeywell Systems and Research Center, and Rome Air Development Center. Schrag earned his doctorate in computer science at the University of Texas at Austin, where he met collaborator Roberto Bayardo.

For more information about nominations for AAAI 2016 Awards, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org or +1-650-328-3123.

AAAI-15 Program Committee Awards

AAAI-15 program cochairs Blai Bonet and Sven Koenig recognized the following members of the AAAI-15 Program Committee for their distinguished service on the committee. These individuals went above and beyond the expectations for the role, showing exceptional judgment, clarity, knowledgeability, and leadership in reaching a consensus decision while serving on the committee.

Chicago and a Ph.D. from M.I.T. in Computer Science. He has published four books: *Computational Semantics,* with Yorick Wilks (1976); *Artificial Intelligence Programming* (now in a second edition) with Chris Riesbeck, Drew McDermott, and James Meehan (1980, 1987); *Introduction to Artificial Intelligence* with Drew McDermott (1985); and *Statistical Language Learning* (1993). He is a Fellow of AAAI and was previously a Councilor of the organization. His research has always been in the area of language understanding or technologies that relate to it, such as knowledge representation,

Outstanding Senior
Program Committee Members

Vincent Conitzer (Duke
University, USA)

Robert Holte (University of
Alberta, Canada)

Francesca Rossi (University of
Padova, Italy)

Outstanding Program
Committee Members

Christopher Amato (Massachusetts
Institute of Technology, USA)

Travis Mandel (University of Wash-
ington, USA

Nicholas Mattei (NICTA and Univer-
sity of New South Wales, Australia)

Ingo Pill (Graz University of Technol-
ogy, Austria)

Erik Talvitie (Franklin & Marshall
College, USA)

Paul Vernaza (Carnegie Mellon Uni-
versity, USA)

Xinhua Zhang (University of Alberta,
Canada)

AAAI-15 Outstanding Paper Awards

This year, AAAI's Conference on Artifi-
cial Intelligence honored the following
two papers, which exemplify high
standards in technical contribution
and exposition by regular and student
authors. In addition, the program
committee selected one paper for hon-
orable mention in each category, based
on their overall high quality and out-
standing contribution.

AAAI-15 Outstanding Paper Award

From Non-Negative to General Opera-
tor Cost Partitioning (Florian Pom-
merening, Malte Helmert, Gabriele
Röger, Jendrik Seipp)

Honorable Mention: Predicting the
Demographics of Twitter Users from
Website Traffic Data (Aron Culotta,
Nirmal Kumar Ravi, Jennifer Cutler)

AAAI-15 Outstanding Student Paper Award

Surpassing Human-Level Face Verifica-
tion Performance on LFW with Gaus-
sianFace (Chaochao Lu, Xiaoou Tang)

Honorable Mention: Sparse Bayesian
Multiview Learning for Simultaneous
Association Discovery and Diagnosis
of Alzheimer's Disease (Shandian Zhe,
Zenglin Xu, Yuan Qi, Peng Yu)

The 2015 AAAI Distinguished Service Award Presented to Kenneth Ford

The 2015 AAAI Distinguished Service Award recognizes one individual for
extraordinary service to the AI community. The AAAI Awards Committee is
pleased to announce that this year's recipient is Kenneth M. Ford, Florida
Institute for Human and Machine Cognition. Dr. Ford is being recognized
for his outstanding contributions to the field of artificial intelligence
through sustained service, including the founding of the Florida Institute
for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), leadership roles at NASA, and
his work on the advisory boards of federal science and technology research
organizations.

Kenneth Ford is the founder and chief execu-
tive officer of the Florida Institute for Human
& Machine Cognition (IHMC) — a not-for-
profit research institute located in Pensacola,
Florida investigating a broad range of topics
related to building technological systems
aimed at amplifying and extending human
cognitive and perceptual capacities. The
author of hundreds of scientific papers and six
books, Ford is emeritus editor-in-chief of AAAI
/ The MIT Press, a AAAI Fellow, and a charter
Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.
In January 1997, Kenneth Ford was asked by
NASA to develop and direct its new Center of
Excellence in Information Technology at the
Ames Research Center in California. He served as associate center director and
director of NASA's Center of Excellence in Information Technology. Ford has
received many awards and honors, including the Doctor Honoris Causas from
the University of Bordeaux, the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, the NASA
Distinguished Public Service Medal, and the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial
Award for his work in artificial intelligence. In 2002, Ford was appointed by the
president of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the
National Science Board. In 2005, Ford was appointed and sworn in as a mem-
ber of the Air Force Science Advisory Board. In 2007, he became a member of
the NASA Advisory Council and on October 16, 2008, he was named as chair-
man – a capacity in which he served until October 2011. In August 2010, ord
was awarded NASA's Distinguished Public Service Medal – the highest honor
the agency confers. Kenneth Ford received his Ph.D. in computer science from
Tulane University. In 2012, Tulane University named Ford its Outstanding
Alumnus in the School of Science and Engineering.

IAAI-15 Innovative Application Awards

Each year the AAAI Conference on
Innovative Applications selects the
recipients of the IAAI Innovative
Application Award. These deployed
application case study papers must
describe deployed applications with
measurable benefits that include some
aspect of AI technology. The applica-
tion needs to have been in production

use by its final end-users for sufficient-
ly long so that the experience in use
can be meaningfully collected and
reported. The 2015 winners are:

Activity Planning for a Lunar Orbital
Mission (John L. Bresina)

Robust System for Identifying Pro-
curement Fraud (Amit Dhurandhar,
Rajesh Ravi, Bruce Graves, Gopikrish-
nan Maniachari, Markus Ettl)

Position Assignment on an Enterprise
Level Using Combinatorial Optimiza-

Please Join Us for ICWSM-15!

The Ninth International AAAI Conference on Webl and Social Media (ICWSM) will be held at Oxford University in Oxford, United Kingdom from May 26–29. This interdisciplinary conference is a forum for researchers in computer science and social science to come together to share knowledge, discuss ideas, exchange information, and learn about cutting-edge research in diverse fields with the common theme of online social media. This overall theme includes research in new perspectives in social theories, as well as computational algorithms for analyzing social media. ICWSM is a singularly fitting venue for research that blends social science and computational approaches to answer important and challenging questions about human social behavior through social media while advancing computational tools for vast and unstructured data.

ICWSM-15 will include a lively program of technical talks and posters, invited presentations, and keynote talks from prominent social scientists and technologists. The ICWSM Workshop program will return in 2016 and will be held on the first day of the conference, May 26. The program includes the following seven workshops:

W1: Auditing Algorithms From the Outside: Methods and Implications. *Organizers:* Mike Ananny, Karrie Karahalios, Christian Sandvig, Christo Wilson

W2: Digital Placemaking: Augmenting Physical Places with Contextual Social Data. *Organizers:* Germaine Halegoua, Raz Schwartz, Ed Manley

W3: Modeling and Mining Temporal Interactions. *Organizers:* Bruno Gonçalves, Márton Karsai, Nicola Perra

W4: Religion on Social Media. *Organizers:* Yelena Mejova, Ingmar Weber, Lu Chen, Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn

W5: The ICWSM Science Slam. *Organizers:* David Garcia, Ingmar Weber, Aniko Hannak

W6: Wikipedia, a Social Pedia: Research Challenges and Opportunities. *Organizers:* Robert West, Leila Zia, Jure Leskovec

W7: Workshop on Standards and Practices in Large-Scale Social Media Research. *Organizers:* Derek Ruths, Juergen Pfeffer

Please see individual websites for workshop submission deadlines. Registration information will be available at the ICWSM-15 website in March. The early registration deadline is April 10, and the late registration deadline is May 1. For full details about the conference program, please visit the ICWSM-15 website (icwsm.org) or write to icwsm15@aaai.org.

tion (Leonard Kinnaird-Heether, Chris Dorman)

Graph Analysis for Detecting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in Healthcare Data (Juan Liu, Eric Bier, Aaron Wilson, Tomo Honda, Sricharan Kumar, Leilani Gilpin, John Guerra-Gomez, Daniel Davies)

Planned Protest Modeling in News and Social Media (Sathappan Muthiah, Bert Huang, Jaime Arredondo, David Mares, Lise Getoor, Graham Katz, Naren Ramakrishnan)

Process Diagnosis System (PDS) — A 30 Year History (Edward D. Thompson, Ethan Frolich, James C. Bellows, Benjamin E. Bassford, Edward J. Skiko, Mark S. Fox)

Special Computing Community Consortium Blue Sky Awards

AAAI-15, in cooperation with the CRA Computing Community Consortium (CCC), honored three papers in the Senior Member track that presented ideas and visions that can stimulate the research community to pursue new directions, such as new problems, new application domains, or new methodologies. The recipients of the 2015 Blue Sky Idea travel awards, sponsored by the CCC, were: Sarit Kraus for Intelligent Agents for Rehabilitation and Care of Disabled and Chronic Patients, Michela Milano and Pascal Van Hentenryck for Emerging Architectures for Global System Science, and Xiaojin Zhu for Machine Teaching: An Inverse Problem to Machine Learning and an Approach toward Optimal Education.

2015 AI Video Competition Winners

The ninth annual AI video competition was held during AAAI-15 and several winning videos were honored during the awards presentation. Videos were nominated for awards in three categories, and winners received a "Shakey" award during a special award ceremony at the conference. Our thanks go to Sabine Hauert and Mauro Birattari for all their work on this event. The winners of the three awards were as follows:

Best Video: A Robot Which Children Can Teach to Write - The CoWriter Project (Deanna Hood, Séverin Lemaignan, Pierre Dillenbourg)

Best Student Video: Self-Organized Col-

lective Decisions in a Robot Swarm (Gabriele Valentini, Heiko Hamann, Marco Dorigo)

People's Choice: Mario Lives! An Adaptive Learning AI Approach for Generating a Living and Conversing Mario Agent (Stephan Ehrenfeld, Fabian Schrodt, Martin Butz)

AAAI gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of *AI Journal,* which made this competition possible. We would also like to acknowledge AI Journal Review Board for its donation and the Bristol Robotics Laboratory for help with the manufacturing of the awards. Congratulations to all the winners!

Minutes, AAAI Executive Council Meeting

The AAAI Executive Council meeting was held July 28, 2014, in Quebec City, Canada. *Attending:* Manuela Veloso, Tom Dietterich, Henry Kautz, Rao Kambhampati, Ted Senator, Sonia Chernova, Vincent Conitzer (via Skype), Boi Faltings, Kate Larson, Julia Hirschberg, Eduard Hovy, Henry Lieberman, Sven Koenig, Francesca Rossi, Stephen Smith, Sylvie Thiebaux, Brian Williams, Shlomo Zilberstein, Tony Cohn, David Leake, Toby Walsh. *Not attending:* Carla Gomes

President Manuela Veloso convened the meeting at 9:00 AM. AAAI Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator reviewed the legal responsibilities of each councilor including the duties of care, loyalty and obedience. He recommended that each councilor review the bylaws of AAAI. Finally, he noted that each councilor is required to participate in at least two committees of the Executive Council and to regularly attend all meetings of the Council.

Veloso reviewed the agenda, and welcomed new councilors Sonia Chernova, Vincent Conitzer, Boi Faltings, and Stephen Smith. She alerted new Councilors to the annual meeting, during which they will begin their tenure on the Council. After the annual meeting, the incoming councilors will vote on any motions that are put forth. Councilors will also be given an opportunity to sign up for committees. Veloso asked the new councilors, as well as incoming President Tom Dietterich, to make a brief statement about

themselves and what they hope to accomplish during their service on the AAAI Executive Council. Sven Koenig gave a brief preview of some of the planned features of AAAI-15, which address many of the priorities mentioned, and welcomed ideas about how to incorporate more.

Standing Committee Reports Part I

Finance: Ted Senator reviewed the 2014 budget and the process to develop the 2015 budget, which consists of sub-

missions by Committees for programs in their areas and approval by the entire Council at a meeting to be scheduled in November 2014. He also reviewed the Association's investment policies and practices.

Awards: Henry Kautz reviewed the activities of the Awards, Fellows, and Nominating Committees. He congratulated David Leake on his selection as the winner of the Distinguished Service award, and noted that one paper from 1996 was selected as the Classic Paper (Pazzani et al.), with two honor-

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Save the Date for AAAI-16

Mark your calendars now for the Thirtieth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-16) and the Twenty-Eighth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-16), which will be held in sunny Phoenix, Arizona, February 12-17, 2016! Please note the change in day pattern from the traditional AAAI model. Workshops and tutorials will be held Friday and Saturday, February 12-13, with the main conference starting on Sunday, February 14. The technical conference will run 3.5 days, as it did in 2015. Phoenix is the gateway to the Grand Canyon, and its history is a testament to the spirit of puebloans, ranchers, miners, and visionaries. Projected against this rich backdrop is a panorama of urban sophistication, with a host of museums (be sure to visit the Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park and the Heard Museum), sports stadiums, restaurants, and shopping. Nearby Tempe is the site of Arizona State University, home of a leading AI research community. The 2016 program cochairs are Dale Schurmanns and Michael Wellman. The Call for Papers will be available soon (www.aaai.org/aaai16). Please join us in 2016 in America's sunniest metropolis!

AAAI Executive Council Elections

The link to the electronic version of the annual AAAI Ballot will be mailed to all regular individual AAAI members in the spring. The membership will vote for four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. The online voting system is expected to close on June 22. Please note that the ballot will be available via the online system only. If you have not provided AAAI with an up-to-date email address, please do so immediately by writing to membership15@aaai.org.

AAAI continued its women's mentoring initiative at AAAI-15 with the Breakfast with Champions: A Women's Mentoring Event, January 28.

able mentions awarded (Burgard et al., and Kautz and Selman). In addition, the Awards Committee selected 25 new senior members. The Fellows Committee had a very strong set of candidates from which to select the final nine new Fellows for 2014. Kautz noted that it is difficult to find people to serve on the Fellows Committee, and would like to see a set of objective measures developed by which the committee can evaluate publication and service contributions. Veloso noted that it would be helpful to have more international members, who would be aware of contributions by the researchers in their respective countries. The Council also discussed the possibility of adding more awards geared at mid-career researchers.

Symposium: On behalf of Kate Larson, Carol Hamilton thanked Matt Taylor and Gita Sukthankar for all their work with the Symposium Series. The Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 both have strong line-ups, and recent iterations of the series have been well-attended. Good proposals are always an issue, and the Council suggested one way to deal with this would be to make the most successful workshops from the annual or other AAAI conferences into symposia. The Council also discussed the idea of converting to just one symposium per year, but the timing of when to hold this was not clear.

Conference Outreach: Henry Lieberman reviewed the list of conferences participating in the AAAI Conference Outreach Program, and noted that IUI should be added to the list. The Council discussed several other conferences that might also be of interest, and Henry suggested that the committee reach out to mathematics conferences as well. In the past year, AAAI has also expanded this program to include a membership incentive for attendees at cooperating conferences who have not been AAAI members in the past. There was strong support for encouraging periodic collocation by cooperating or affiliated conferences, and also establishing more co-sponsored activities, such as those already undertaken with SIGAI.

Conference: Rao Kambhampati thanked Carla Brodley and Peter Stone for there hard work, and reviewed some of the innovations of the 2014 conference, including plenary session 2.5-minute lightning talks, posters for all papers, a conference banquet included in the registration fee, speed dating, and games night. He noted that there were no special tracks in 2014, but that they would be reestablished in 2015. There were Senior Member and What's Hot tracks. All of the traditional affiliated events were held, such as IAAI, EAAI, Student Abstracts, the Doctoral Consortium, workshops, and tutorials.

The conference had more than twice the number of full technical submissions as that in 2013. This contributed to an increase in attendance of over 25 percent, and over 30 percent in paid technical attendance. 245 papers were presented orally, with 205 in traditional 15-minute slots in parallel sessions and 40 as 2.5-minute talks in three plenary sessions. The 2014 submissions that were not ready for acceptance in 2014 will be pipelined for review again by the 2015 program committee if the authors opt to have this done. This new process is likely to be repeated in some form as a cooperative effort between AAAI and the IJCAI-15 program chair.
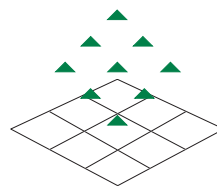
AI Summit Report

Manuela Veloso reported on the AI Summit held in February in Brooklyn, New York as a cooperative effort between IJCAI and AAAI. Forty-five leaders of subdisciplines in artificial intelligence came together to discuss ways to bridge communities and work cooperatively. Representatives from IJCAI, ECAI, AAAI, and PRICAI were also included. One of the suggestions being discussed is a federated conference, possibly as early as 2018. Another alternative is collocation, such as IJCAI and ECAI in 2018. The Council held a discussion about ways to reach out to subareas to participate in AI, but also maintain the cohesiveness of their own subcommunities. The group hopes to meet every four years to keep this initiative going.

Standing Committee Reports Part II

International: Toby Walsh reported on the recent efforts of the committee to reach out to the international AI community, including regional chapters and a column in the AI Magazine. The goal is to heighten awareness of AI research internationally and to increase international membership in AAAI. The committee hopes to strengthen the chapter program by providing better incentives to form chapters, including more support and cooperation, such as hosting an international conference. Matthias Spaan has agreed to be the editor of the international column in *AI Magazine.* The column will focus more on specific labs or research efforts in a given country, rather than trying to highlight all research in one country in each issue. The committee would also like to see more of an international flavor on the website and a reduction in membership fees to encourage international membership.

Walsh suggested that the focus start with current grad students, and proposed a deep discount for student memberships, as well as a half-price membership during the first year of a post-doc. The committee would like to significantly increase the size of the doctoral consortium, and host a job fair at AAAI. Walsh is also organizing the first research speed dating event at AAAI, designed to give younger researchers an opportunity to connect with senior researchers and lab directors. Other suggested incentives for students might be an international student chapter, a student reception, AAAI email addresses, seats on the Executive Council, a best thesis award, and student conferences travel funds for the conference as well as to visit research labs. The committee will work with the conference committee for 2015 on some of these issues, and with the membership committee on a proposal for reduced student fees in select countries.

The Council discussed the idea of establishing an international organization with a federated conference. However, the alternative model of a rotating group of collocated conferences was more appealing. This model would allow all groups to maintain their independence, but would heighten cooperation and provide opportunities for jointly sponsored programs.

Publications: David Leake reported on the current and upcoming issues of *AI Magazine,* including computational sustainability and space applications of AI. *AI Magazine* also publishes reports on AAAI workshops, symposia, competitions, and affiliated events, such as RoboCup. The *AI Magazine* app was launched earlier in 2014, and has been very well received. Plans to incorporate video are in the works. AAAI Press has published 19 technical reports, and 8 proceedings since the last report. In addition, the AAAI-14/IAAI-14 was just published and the 4-volume set is the largest in the series at 3,280 pages. The new AAAI Press printer will offer the capability of ordering AAAI Press titles to nearly 39,000 wholesale and retail partners in 220 countries and territories around the world. AAAI proceedings are also now offered as downloadable PDFs at a very reasonable price. The Publications Committee will be meeting later in the week to discuss the future of monographs.

Outgoing Council Reports

Outgoing Council members Kate Larson, Makoto Yokoo, and Shlomo Zilberstein presented their reflections on their tenure as Executive Council members, and Manuela Veloso thanked them for their time on the Council.

The Council then adjourned to the AAAI Annual Business Meeting.

2015 Fall Symposium Series — November 12–14

The 2015 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 12–14, at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. Proposals are due March 20, and accepted symposia will be announced in April. Submissions will be due June 19, 2015. For more information, please see the 2015 Fall Symposium Series website (www.aaai.org/Symposia/ Fall/fss15.php).

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

During the Annual Business Meeting, incoming officers and councilors took office, and outgoing officers and councilors were acknowledged for their service.

There was a brief discussion about the lack of participation by members in the Annual Business Meeting. This meeting currently takes place during a break in the Council Meeting to encourage both incoming and outgoing Councilors to participate in the Council meeting. It was suggested that this meeting be moved to a time during the main conference to encourage greater participation by the membership.

Standing Committee Reports Part III

Strategic Planning Board: Henry Kautz reported on the November 2013 meeting of the Strategic Planning Board. The Board discussed future directions for AAAI and how new initiatives might be funded. He noted that all but two living past presidents attended the meeting. Tom Dietterich will be following up on an examination of current operating costs to see if further efficiencies can be instituted to help fund future projects.

Ongoing Business

CRA Report: Henry Kautz reported that the CRA is seeking $50K in funding to help support staff members in the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Council suggested recruiting

people in the community to work with the CRA to help with a fundraising effort. The CRA continues to publish the Taulbee Survey, the principal source of information on the enrollment, production, and employment of Ph.D.s in computer science and computer engineering and in providing salary and demographic data for faculty in computer science and computer engineering in North America.

AI Topics: Bruce Buchanan (via written report) noted that he and Reid Smith have started a company (i2k Connect), which will provide services using a technology developed for AI Topics, namely categorizing large collections of documents using arbitrary taxonomies and unlabeled documents for training classifiers. Buchanan reported that they are partially operating AI Topics on a grant from NSF, which enables them to hire a summer intern. They are working on being able to crawl online AI journals and collections to pick out overview articles and book reviews that summarize work in all areas of AI. They are trying to replicate what the NewsFinder program is already doing with automated crawl, selection of interesting articles, and automatic posting on the web. It is likely that the running of AI Topics will need to taken over by the Publications Committee or another group within AAAI when the NSF funds are exhausted.

New Business

Executive Council Election Changes: Ted Senator noted that the move of the conference from July to January resulted in the AAAI election cycle to be out of sync with the conference, and the annual business meeting. The bylaws prohibit the Council from extending the terms of officers and therefore Ted proposed two alternative approaches that would resolve this situation, one of which would align terms of office with the new conference schedule by reducing the term of office for current office holders, and the other of which retained the terms of office but decoupled them from the annual conference and meeting of members. The Council was strongly in favor of the latter approach, especially considering that the change in Conference time is still considered experimental. As a result, the following Amendment to the bylaws was unanimously approved by the Executive Council. This wording will be reviewed by our legal counsel before implementation.

Proposed Resolution for Change in Bylaws:

Whereas (1) the change in scheduling of the Annual Conference for 2015 and 2016 has created an inconsistent situation between the specified time of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation and the terms of office of Officers and Councilors, (2) said change in scheduling is considered to be a two-year experiment, and (3) the bylaws strictly prohibit the Council from extending any terms of office, and desiring to resolve said inconsistencies while maintaining the terms of office as specified in the bylaws, the Executive Council hereby approves and adopts the following amendment to the bylaws under the authorities granted to it by Article XVII, as an addition to Article XI, Election of Councilors and Officers.

Section 3. Period of Incumbency. In years in which the corporation's Annual Conference does not take place in the summer, a Special Meeting of the Executive Council shall be held during the summer at a time and place designated by the President or by one-third of its Councilors. In these years, this special meeting of the Executive Council shall replace the Annual meeting of members with respect to all other provisions of these bylaws relating to elections and terms of office of Officers and Councilors, with the purpose of maintaining the regular terms of office as specified in Articles VIII and X of these bylaws.

AAAI-15 Budget Request: Sven Koenig, AAAI-15 Program Cochair, requested $30K in temporary funds to support additional robotics activity at the conference. A proposal has been submitted to NSF for funding of these activities, and it is expected to be funded. However, the calls for participation need to issued immediately, and a guarantee of funding is needed. Robotics activities are also being sponsored by several other organizations, including IEEE RSS. The grant of $30K was approved unanimously by the Council. Koenig also noted that one of the robotics activities at AAAI-15 will be a special RoboCup exhibition, featuring the University of Texas team playing against another team, to be announced. The RoboCup Federation will cosponsor this event.

AAAI Membership Fees/Growth: Manuela Veloso reported on several initiatives taken in the past year to stimulate membership growth, and asked the Council to consider other creative ideas. AAAI has offered complimentary memberships to all attendees of sister conferences who are new to AAAI (not a current member and have not been a member in the last 10 years). In addition, the promotional silver rate has been established at the main conference, which offers membership at a reduced rate of $99 (regular) and $49 (student). This membership does not include the hard copy version of the magazine. There is no longer a nonmember rate at the main conference. All attendees at the conference must be members through the selection of the silver or platinum registration options. The Council discussed the idea of extending the promotional rate as an option for all members. The membership committee will study this idea, as well as ways to make membership in the association a value proposition, and report back to the Council. A survey of nonrenewing members may be conducted.

Outstanding Educator Award: Manuela Veloso reported that Kiri Wagstaff has proposed the establishment of the Outstanding Educator Award for $1,000. The Council requires more detail on this award before final action can be taken.

Before adjournment, Council members signed up to serve on various committees, and the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Minutes, AAAI Executive Council Meeting

The AAAI Executive Council meeting was held November 10, 2014 via telecom. The meeting convened at 12:00 noon PST. Tom Dietterich welcomed all to the meeting and roll call was taken.

Attending: Thomas Dietterich, Manuela Veloso, Subbarao Kambhampati, Ted Senator, Sonia Chernova, Vincent Conitzer, Boi Faltings, Carla

Gomes, Julia Hirschberg, Eduard Hovy, Sven Koenig, Henry Lieberman, Francesca Rossi, Stephen Smith, Sylvie Thiebaux, Brian Williams, David Leake, Carol Hamilton.

2015 Budget Overview

Prior to the Council meeting, a copy of the 2015 budget was circulated, along with several documents providing overviews of select budget items, such as the conference, membership, operations, and the general budgeting process. The purpose of these documents was to provide top-level guidelines for interpreting the AAAI budgeting process and larger budget cost centers. Tom Dietterich noted that 2015 will be a challenging transition year from a North American summer conference schedule to a winter schedule, especially with the short timeframe between the 2014 conference and the 2015 conference. With the decision to move the conference, the Council accepted a certain amount a risk and should anticipate a loss if registration is lower than normal. After discussing the following standing committee reports, the Council moved to accept the budget as proposed, and that the principles outlined in the overview documents would be followed for any additional or unanticipated expenses. The motion was unanimously approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Conference: Tom Dietterich announced that Shlomo Zilberstein has agreed to serve as the new Conference Committee Chair. Shlomo and cochair Vince Conitzer had conducted a survey of all 2014 participants, and the results will be used to help shape the conference in the coming years. The Council was very supportive, including financially, of new ideas to help reach out to new communities, and Toby Walsh noted that additional financial support may be needed in 2016 with the location of IJCAI-16 in North America. Shlomo had two items for discussion, including a request to make the conference more family-friendly and to possibly add an additional half-day to the 2015 conference. The Council was very supportive of adopting a family-friendly policy, which the Conference Com-

mittee will discuss and propose at the January meeting. Zilberstein noted that survey participants were overwhelmingly supportive of the additional half-day if it would increase participation, and the Council agreed to leave this decision for 2015 up to the program cochairs. However, a decision should be made immediately in order to allow people to make their travel plans.

Membership: Ed Hovy, Membership Committee Chair, noted that the committee is investigating the possibility of setting a low fee for students in developing countries. In order to do this, they will be examining in depth the current membership base, with special attention to the student numbers. The Council discussed various methods of approaching the issue, with some proposing less benefits for less money, and some supporting the examination and enhancement of benefits to attract more members. It is hoped that a balance of these two views can be achieved through a creative new approach to the membership fee structure. Both Manuela Veloso and Rao Kambhampati expressed the view that we should seek to be competitive with ACM in our membership fees.

In response to a question from Manuela Veloso about the possibility of publishing *AI Magazine* at Amazon.com, David Leake noted that the *AI Magazine* is currently printed in as efficient and eco-friendly manner as possible, and that this provides a strong incentive for authors to publish their work in the magazine, which is mailed to many libraries and government agencies. Our current publication method integrates well with our mailing list of members and subscribers, which would not be the case at Amazon. The membership committee will have a proposal at the January meeting for review.

Publications: David Leake, Publications Committee Chair, reported that proceedings publishing and technical report publishing remained a very important and thriving service for AAAI, as well as the publication of the *AI Magazine* each quarter. In addition to AAAI conferences, AAAI publishes several proceedings for other affiliated conferences. The Publications Com-

mittee has decided to suspend future monograph publishing activity, as this cannot be done efficiently, and there is little demand for it.

Executive: President Tom Dietterich announced that Lise Getoor has agreed to serve as the AAAI liaison for Computing Research Association activities. She will attend the annual summit and board meetings on AAAI's behalf. The motion to approve her appointment passed unanimously. Tom is also forming a Media Working Group that will examine AAAI social media and website activities, and make suggestions on how to improve our outreach in that area. In response to recent media activity, AAAI has organized a number of activities to address ethical issues in AI, including a workshop at the 2015 conference, a debate, and other forums to educate the public. David Leake would like to organize a follow-up article in the AI Magazine. The Council discussed AAAI's role in responding to questions and assertions about the ethical use of AI. Although no consensus was reached, the Council did agree that AAAI should continue to hold forums for the exchange of ideas, and to respond to the press via AI experts. There was resistance to the idea of presenting one voice representing all AAAI members.

AAAI-16 Overview

Carol Hamilton presented proposals from several venues for AAAI-16, which will again be held in the North American winter timeframe. In light of the preferences gathered in the recent conference survey, the Council decided that the best option would be Phoenix, Arizona, both for the time period available and its proximity to Arizona State University. Other advantages include accessibility, warmth, student accommodations, and flexibility of meeting space. The conference will be held February 12–17, which is a shift in the traditional day pattern for AAAI.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM PST.