AAAI News

*Summer News from the
Association for the Advancement
of Artificial Intelligence*

AAAI Celebrates Its 30th in the Land of the Sun!

The planning for AAAI-16 in Arizona, February 12-17, 2016 has begun! We hope you will join us for a memorable anniversary year. AAAI-16 Program Cochairs Dale Schuurmans and Michael Wellman plan to build on all the innovations introduced in the past few years, and will introduce a few of their own. Special technical tracks will include Cognitive Systems (Chairs: David Leake (Indiana University) and James Lester (North Carolina State University), Computational Sustainability (Chairs: J. Zico Kolter (Carnegie Mellon University) and Claire Monteleoni (George Washington University), and Integrated Systems (Chairs: Patrick Doherty (Linköping University) and Malik Ghallab (CNRS).

Please check the inset on the following page for important deadlines. For complete details on the technical program, and the Call for Papers, please see www.aaai.org/aaai16.

Phoenix is America's sixth largest city, yet still has real cowboys, rugged mountains, and the kind of cactus most people see only in cartoons. 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. Please join us in 2016 in America's sunniest metropolis!

For more information about AAAI-16 as it develops, please visit www.aaai.org/aaai16, or contact AAAI at aaai16@aaai.org. We look forward to seeing you in Phoenix next February!

AAAI 2016 Spring Symposium Series

The 2016 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 21-23, 2016 at Stanford University. The Call for Participation will be available in August on the AAAI web site (http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss16). Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 2, 2015. For more information, please contact the Symposium Cochairs, Matt Taylor and Gita Sukthankar, at sss16chairs@aaai.org or AAAI at sss16@aaai.org. A preliminary list of symposia will be available at the SSS-16 website in July.

Executive Council Ballot

Please watch your mailbox for an announcement of the 2015 Executive Council election. Ballots will be mailed in June, and will be due in mid-July. Four new councilors will be elected to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members to vote!

Nominations for a new President-Elect and 2016 Executive Council nominees will be due later this fall. A reminder will be included in an upcoming issue and sent to all members. Thank you for your participation!

2016 AAAI Award Nomination Season Is Here!

AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2016 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 ref-

erence forms, please contact AAAI at 650-328-3123; by fax at 650-321-4457; or by email at fellows16@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 1, 2015.

2016 Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its two special awards in 2016, and is currently seeking nominations for the 2016 AAAI Classic Paper Award, and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award. The 2016 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Fifteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1998 in Madison, Wisconsin. The 2016 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-16 in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php. The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2015. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

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 maxi-

AAAI Celebrates Its 30th in the Land of the Sun!

AAAI-16 / IAAI-16 February 12–17, 2016
Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

September 10, 2015: AAAI-16 Electronic abstracts due
September 10, 2015: IAAI-16 Electronic papers due
September 15, 2015: AAAI-16 Electronic papers due
October 28 - 30, 2015: Author feedback about initial reviews
November 12, 2015: Notification of acceptance or rejection
December 1, 2015: Camera-ready copy due

AAAI-16 will also feature the following programs (preliminary list). Please make a note of the upcoming deadlines (subject to change):

Workshop Program

June 15: Workshop proposals due

Tutorial Program

September 4: Tutorial proposals due

Technical Demos Program

September 10: Registration and abstract deadline
September 15: Paper deadline

AAAI/SIGAI Doctoral Consortium

September 22: Application packages due
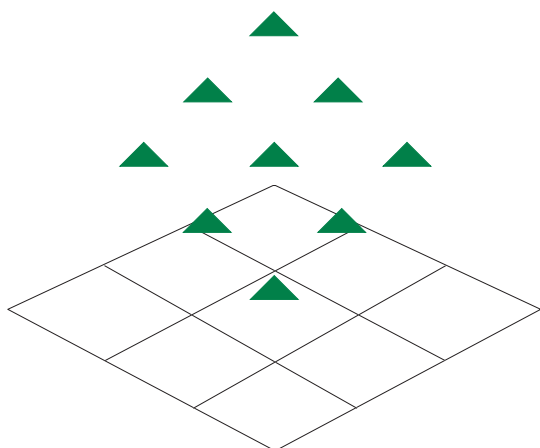
Student Abstract and Poster Program

September 29: Electronic abstracts due

Senior Member Presentation Track

October 7: Electronic submissions of talks and papers due

AI Video Competition

October 15: Submission Deadline

AAAI News

2015 AAAI
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, Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The topics of the symposia are available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss15. Please note that submissions are due July 15, 2015.

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/fss15.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 16, 2015. The discounted room rate of $199.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date. Contact information for the Westin will be included in the registration materials.

mum 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 30, 2015. For complete details and an application form, please see www.aaai.org/Awards/senior.php, or contact Carol Hamilton at seniormember16@aaai.org.

Member News

AAAI is pleased to congratulate the winners of the 2015 IJCAI Awards!

IJCAI-15 Award for

Research Excellence

The Research Excellence award is given to a scientist who has carried out a program of research of consistently high quality throughout an entire career yielding several substantial results. The winner of the 2015 Award for Research Excellence is Barbara Grosz, Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences at the School of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Harvard University. Professor Grosz is recognized for her pioneering research in Natural Language Processing and in theories and applications of Multiagent Collaboration.

IJCAI-15 Computers and Thought Award

The Computers and Thought Award is presented at IJCAI conferences to outstanding young scientists in artificial intelligence. The winner of the 2015 IJCAI Computers and Thought Award is Ariel Procaccia, Assistant Professor at the Computer Science Department, Carnegie Mellon University. Professor Procaccia is recognized for his contributions to the fields of computational social choice and computational economics, and for efforts to make advanced fair division techniques more widely accessible.

IJCAI-15 John McCarthy Award

The Trustees of the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) are pleased to announce the John McCarthy research award. This award is intended to recognize established mid-career researchers that have built up a major track record of research excellence in artificial intelligence. Recipients of the award will have made significant contributions to the research agenda in their area and will have a first-rate profile of influential research results.

The award is named for John McCarthy (1927-2011), who is widely recognized as one of the founders of the field of artificial intelligence. As well as giving the discipline its name, McCarthy made fundamental contributions of lasting importance to computer science in general and artificial intelligence in particular, including time-sharing operating systems, the LISP programming languages, knowl-

Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment

The Eleventh AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE-15)

November 14-18

Please join us for AIIDE-15, to be held November 14-18, 2015 at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, 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 topics and encourage the demonstration of (a) research systems in the context of AI-related problems and encourage 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.

Note the following important dates:
> *June 15, 2015:* Playable experiences abstracts due
> *July 14, 2015:* Doctoral consortium applications due

The third edition of the Playable Experiences track will include presentations by indie developers, industry developers, and researchers who are developing innovative 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 workshop program will be held on the first two days of the conference, November 14 and 15. A preliminary list of workshops includes Experimental AI in Games, organized by Alex Zook (Entertainment Intelligence Lab, Georgia Institute of Technology), Antonios Liapis (Institute of Digital games, University of Malta), and Mike Cook Computational Creativity Group, Goldsmiths, University of London), and Intelligent Narrative Technologies, organized by Camille Barot (North Carolina State University), Boyang "Albert" Li (Disney Research), Jonathan Rowe (North Carolina State University), and Emmett Tomai (University of Texas – Pan American). For complete details about these workshops and others, please see www.aiide.org/workshops.

AIIDE-15 registration information and other program details will be available on the AIIDE-15 website at www.aiide.org later this summer. Please send inquiries to aiide15@aaai.org, or to conference chair Arnav Jhala (University of California, Santa Cruz).

HCOMP 2015

November 8–11, 2015 ■ San Diego, California USA ■ www.humancomputation.com/2015

Join Us in San Diego, California for HCOMP 2015!

November 8-11

The Third AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP-2015) 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, psychology, design, 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 8-11 at the Kona Kai Marina & Resort in San Diego, California, 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 21.) A day of workshops and tutorials will precede the main conference on November 8. Please consult the website for details about these and other programs, such as the second annual Doctoral Consortium.

Complete registration and hotel information will be available in August at www.humancomputation.com/2015/. The early registration deadline will be September 11. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Kona Kai is October 5, 2015. The discounted room rate of $149.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date.

complexity and developing new algorithms for efficient inference.

Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award

The IJCAI Distinguished Service Award was established in 1979 by the IJCAI Trustees to honor senior scientists in AI for contributions and service to the field during their careers. At IJCAI-15, the Donald E. Walker Distinguished Service Award will be given to Anthony G. Cohn, Professor of Automated Reasoning at the University of Leeds. As a pioneering researcher in Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, Professor Cohn is recognized for his substantial contributions, as well as his outstanding service to the international, European and UK AI communities, including terms as President of IJCAI, ECCAI, KR Inc., and AISB, and as Editor-in-chief of the *AI Journal,* where he made significant contributions to the success of the journal and to the wider dissemination of AI into the scientific community.

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

We encourage you to explore the features of the AAAI Member website (aaai.memberclicks.net), where you can renew your membership in AAAI and update your contact information directly. In addition, you are 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!

edge representation, common-sense reasoning, and the logicist paradigm in artificial intelligence. The award was established with the full support and encouragement of the McCarthy family.

The winner of the 2015 inaugural John McCarthy Award is Bart Selman, Professor at the Department of Computer Science, Cornell University. Professor Selman is recognized for expanding our understanding of problem

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 dozens of 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 donate15@aaai.org.

Support AAAI Open Access

AAAI also thanks you for your ongoing support of the open access initiative. 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."

AAAI is a 501c3 charitable organization. Your contribution
may be tax deductible.