AAAI News

Fall News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

AAAI Honors High School Students at Intel ISEF

AAAI is pleased to announce the winners of the recent AAAI Special Awards at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held May 13-18, 2018 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The winners of the AAAI honors were as follows:

First Prize

Nikita Zozoulenko (Linköping, Sweden) for Dense Face Detection and Improving Temporal Convolutional Networks for Automatic Image Captioning.

Second Prize

Matthew Dong and Pratham Soni (Troy, Michigan, USA) for Context Aware Medical Image Super Resolution Using Convolutional Neural Networks.

Third Prize

Han Qi (Tianjin, China) for Changing the Ratio of an Image Intelligently According to Its Contents: An Image Processing Tool Based on Pixel Weight and Face Detection.

Honorable Mention

Honorable Mention went to the following students:

Alice Martynova (Los Gatos, California, USA) for An Affordable, Autonomous, AI-Enhanced Microscope to Enable Efficient Diagnosis of Parasitic Infection in Developing Countries.

Kavya Kopparapu (Alexandria, Virginia, USA) for GlioVision: A Platform for the Automatic Assessment of Glioblastoma Tumor Features, Molecular Identity, and Gene Methylation from Histopathological Images Using Deep Learning.

David Lyons (Gates Mills, Ohio, USA) for Automatic Contouring Methods for Adaptive Radiotherapy in Cancer Patients Using Artificial Intelligence and a Virtual Mobile Robotic Assistant.

Savitha Srinivasan (Bellevue, Washington, USA) for Development of Semi-Supervised Machine Learning Models to Predict Enhancer Regions in Polygenic Developmental Diseases.

Mihir Patel (Alexandria, Virginia, USA) for Optimizing Reinforcement Learning Through Dynamic Environment Manipulation.

AAAI thanks Stephen Smith (head judge), Laura Barbulescu, Jean Oh, and Zachary Rubinstein, all from Carnegie Mellon University, who served as AAAI's judges at the Intel event, for their generous donation of time and effort.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, a program of Society for Science and the Public, is the world's largest precollege science competition, and includes more than 1,800 high school students from more than 75 countries, regions and territories. Society for Science and the Public, a nonprofit organization dedicated to public engagement in scientific research and education, owns and has administered the International Science and Engineering Fair since its inception in 1950. In 1958, the competition became international for the first time when Japan, Canada and Germany joined.
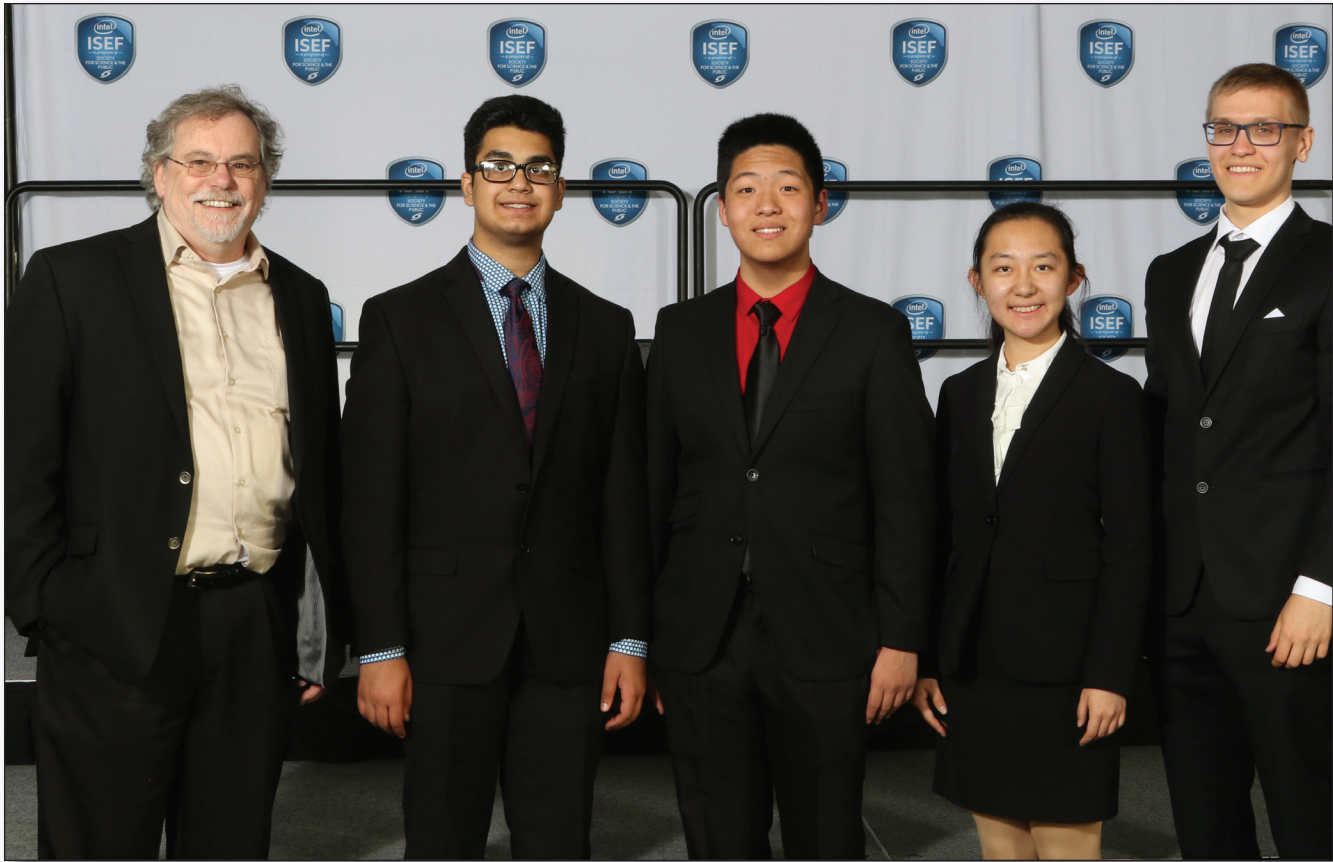
The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2018 is funded jointly by Intel and the Intel Foundation with additional awards and support from dozens of corporate, academic, governmental and science-focused organizations. To learn more about Society for Science and the Public, visit www.societyforscience.org.

AAAI and ACM to Cosponsor Second Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its collaboration with ACM in cosponsoring the AAAI/ACM Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society. The second AAAI/ACM Confernce on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES 2019) will be held January 27–28, 2019, in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

As AI is becoming more pervasive in our lives, its impact on society is becoming more significant and concerns and issues are arising regarding aspects such as value alignment, data handling and bias, regulations, and workforce displacement. Only a multidisciplinary and multistakeholder effort can find the best ways to address these concerns, including experts in various disciplines, such as ethics, philosophy, economics, sociology, psychology, law, history, and politics. This conference is designed to address these issues in a scientific context.

The first meeting of this conference in 2018 attracted over 250 partici-

AAAI 2018 Special Awards Recipients at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

Left to right: Stephen Smith (Judge), Pratham Soni, Matthew Dong, Han Qi, and Nikita Zozoulenko.

pants. The program of the conference will include peer-reviewed paper presentations, invited talks, panels, and working sessions. Papers submitted to the conference should address questions related to any of the topics listed with a rigorous scientific approach. We expect papers submitted by researchers of all the disciplines involved. For complete information and the full call for papers, please see www.aies-conference.com. Abstract submission is required by November 2, followed by full paper submission by November 5.

AAAI-19 Student Abstract and Poster Program

The goal of the AAAI-19 Student Abstract and Poster program is to provide a forum in which students can present and discuss their work during its early stages, meet some of their peers who have related interests, and introduce themselves to more senior members of the field. The program is open to all students at the Undergraduate, Masters, and Doctoral levels. Abstracts are due September 21, 2018. See aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-19/aaai19studentcall.

AAAI-19 Demonstrations Program

The AAAI-19 Demonstrations Program is intended to foster discussion and exchange of ideas among researchers and practitioners from academe and industry by presenting software and hardware systems and research prototypes of such systems, including their capabilities and workings. Accepted demonstrations will be allocated one time slot during one of the main conference evening poster programs, and will have a short paper included in the proceedings. Submissions from everyone, including authors of paper submissions to AAAI, IAAI, and AAAI-19 workshops, are encouraged.

Short papers and video or slides are due September 21, 2018.

AAAI-19 Workshop Program

The AAAI-19 workshop program includes the following 16 workshops covering a wide range of topics in artificial intelligence:

Affective Content Analysis

Agile Robotics for Industrial Automation Competition

Artificial Intelligence for Cyber Security

Artificial Intelligence Safety

Dialog System Technology Challenge

Engineering Dependable and Secure Machine Learning Systems

Games and Simulations for Artificial Intelligence

Health Intelligence

Knowledge Extraction from Games

Network Interpretability for Deep Learning

Plan, Activity, and Intent Recognition

Reasoning and Learning for Human-Machine Dialogues

Reasoning for Complex Question Answering

Recommender Systems Meet Natural Language Processing

Reinforcement Learning in Games

Reproducibility in AI

The AAAI-19 Workshop Call for Participation is now available at aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-19/ws19 call. The recommended date for workshop submissions is November 5, unless otherwise noted at the individual workshop websites. Submission requirements vary for each workshop. Please consult the individual workshop description for complete information about where to submit your paper and a link to the workshop supplementary website, where more detailed information will be available.

Be an AAAI Sponsor, Exhibitor, and Job Fair Participant!

AAAI invites you to participate as a sponsor, exhibitor, and job fair employer at AAAI-19. Your participation will give you instant visibility to this diverse group of AI professionals, representing a host of research areas such as search, planning, knowledge representation, reasoning, natural language processing, robotics and perception, multiagent systems, statistical learning, and deep learning, as well as applications in diverse domains such as healthcare, sustainability, transportation, and commerce.

In 2019, AAAI will highlight research in the emerging area of artificial intelligence for social impact. Sponsors and exhibitors enjoy a host of benefits, including complimentary technical registrations.

The AAAI/ACM SIGAI job fair is a

Photo courtesy iStock

Join Us in Honolulu for AAAI-19 / IAAI-19 / EAAI-19!

The Thirty-Third AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-19), the Thirty-First Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-19), and the Ninth Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI-19) will be held January 27 — February 1 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

Registration information will be available in early November on the AAAI website. The cut-off date for hotel reservations is December 25, 2018, but we encourage you to secure your room early. For more information about the AAAI-19 block of rooms at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, please see

www.aaai. org/Conferences/AAAI-19/hotel-and-travel.

The conference venue is located on the island of Oahu directly on Waikiki. Oahu offers a wealth of things to see and do. Explore the rich history of the Islands at one of the many museums or historical sites, take a hike in a lush tropical forest, or admire the unparalleled views from the conference site. Hilton Hawaiian Village offers a host of conveniences right on property, but is also close to a full range of shops and restaurants, stretching to Diamond Head at the other end of Waikiki. For complete information about options in Honolulu, please see the Hawaiian Islands visitors page at www.gohawaii. com.

Photo courtesy iStock

HCOMP-19 to Be Held at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington, USA

Please join us for the Seventh AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 2019), to be held October 28–30 at the Skamania Lodge, located in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in the town of Stevenson, Washington, 45 minutes from Portland, Oregon. The resort offers a distinctly Pacific Northwestern experience, featuring a three-story stone fireplace and sweeping river views.

HCOMP is the premier venue for disseminating the latest research findings on crowdsourcing and human computation. While artificial intelligence (AI) and human-computer interaction (HCI) represent traditional mainstays of the conference, HCOMP believes strongly in inviting, fostering, and promoting broad, interdisciplinary research. This field is particularly unique in the diversity of disciplines it draws upon, and contributes to, ranging from human-centered qualitative studies and HCI design, to computer science and artificial intelligence, economics and the social sciences, all the way to digital humanities, policy, and ethics. We promote the exchange of advances in human computation and crowdsourcing not only among researchers, but also engineers and practitioners, to encourage dialogue across disciplines and communities of practice.

Please visit www.humancomputation.com/2019 for more details as they become available.

place for students and professionals looking for internships or jobs to meet with representatives from companies and academia in an informal meet-and-greet atmosphere. Past fairs have attracted more than 20 companies and hundreds of interested job seekers!

For complete details about all of these programs, please visit aaai. org/Conferences/AAAI-19 or write to AAAI at aaai19@aaai.org.
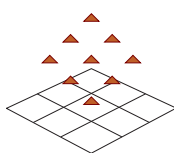
The preferred deadline for notifica-tion of intent to participate is October 15, 2018.

Program Chairs for AAAI-19, IAAI-19, and EAAI-19

Pascal Van Hentenryck (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA), and Zhi-Hua Zhou (Nanjing University, China) are the program chairs for AAAI-19.

Michael Wollowski (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, USA) and Nate Derbinsky (Northeastern University, USA) are the EAAI-19 Symposium Cochairs.

Karen Myers (SRI International, USA) is the IAAI-19 chair.

We hope to see you in Honolulu in January!

AAAI-19 Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Scholarship Program for 2019, which is cosponsored by AAAI and the *AI Journal*. The Student Scholar Program provides partial travel support for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the conference program or letters of recommendation from their faculty advisor; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by November 15, 2018.

In addition, repeat scholarship applicants must have fulfilled the volunteer and reporting requirements for previous awards. In the event that scholarship applications exceed available funds, preference will be given to students who have an accepted technical paper, and then to students who are actively participating in the conference in some way. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply.

The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in Honolulu. In 2019, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to participating students for the volunteer positions. Local students or students not requiring travel assistance can apply for the Volunteer Program if openings are available. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. The deadline for volunteer applications is November 15, 2018.

For further information about the Scholarship Program or the Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at scholars19@aaai.org. The application is available at aaaiforms.wufoo.com/forms/z1abmgdf0qjxv60/.

2018 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence's 2018 Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, October 18-20 at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The titles of the six symposia are:

Adversary-Aware Learning Techniques and Trends in Cybersecurity

Artificial Intelligence for Synthetic Biology

Artificial Intelligence in Government and Public Sector

A Common Model of Cognition

Gathering for Artificial Intelligence and Natural System

Integrating Planning, Diagnosis and Causal Reasoning

Interactive Learning in Artificial Intelligence for Human-Robot Interaction

Reasoning and Learning in Real-World Systems for Long-Term Autonomy

This year, the symposium will include two special events:

Growing Federal Support for AI Research

Henry Kautz, Division Director, CISE/IIS, National Science Foundation will present a short talk at the beginning of the Friday evening plenary session, entitled Growing Federal Support for AI Research. He will describe current efforts to expand and coordinate support by government and industry in AI research. At the National Science Foundation, support of AI is now an agency-wide priority. In addition to traditional support from CISE/IIS, support for AI is coming from a number of recent cross-division and interagency programs, such as the Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier.

NSF is growing funding for research on the social impacts of AI. All major federal agencies that fund AI R&D, including NSF, Department of Defense, Health and Human Services, NASA, and many others, have begun to coordinate their efforts through a new AI working group at NITRD. The Community Computing Consortium is leading a study with support from NSF to create a roadmap that is expected to influence government support for AI research over the next decade.

AI for K-12

AAAI and the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) recently formed a joint working group to develop national guidelines for teaching K-12 students about artificial intelligence. Inspired by CSTA's national standards for K-12 computing education, the "AI for K-12" guidelines will define what students in each grade band should know about artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics.

The working group will also create an online resource directory where teachers can find AI-related videos, demo software, and activity descriptions they can incorporate into their lesson plans. The first AI4K12 Symposium will be colocated with the Fall Symposium Series on Saturday, October 20. For more information, please see the AI4k12 website at github.com/ touretzkyds/ai4k12/wiki.

Reception and Plenary Session

The Fall Symposium Series will feature an informal reception on Thursday, October 18. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Friday, October 19. Participation is open to active participants as well as other interested individuals on a first-come, first-served basis. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium.

Registration

The final deadline for registration is September 21, 2018. For registration information, please contact AAAI at fss18@aaai.org or visit AAAI's web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss18.php.

A hotel room block has been reserved at the Westin. The cut-off date for reservations is September 26, 2018 at 5:00 PM ET. Please call +1-888-627-7076 (reference AAAI) for reservations, or reserve a room online via the URL previously noted.

Join Us for AIIDE-18 In Alberta, Canada!

The Fourteenth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE-18) will be held at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta, from November 13-17, 2018.

AIIDE is the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. Sponsored by AAAI, 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. This year's conference features a special topic of "Situated Entertainment," and will include speakers, panels, and paper sessions that focus on a broad range of complementary areas of interactive digital entertainment.

AIIDE-18 will include three invited speakers: Ana Paiva (University of Lisbon and INESC-ID); Darius Kazemi (Feel Train); and Theresa Duringer (Temples Gates Games). The program will also include technical paper presentations, a poster and demonstration session, a doctoral consortium, and the annual Starcraft AI Competition. Plans are also underway for an industry event, connecting conference participants with the local AI and Games industry in Alberta. The Playable Experiences track will continue this year with five systems with articulable innovation in the use of AI directly affecting the user's experience, including "Escape Plan" and "At the Bar": Dynamic Characters Driven by Spirit AI Character Engine; Vox Populi: The Ustradian Games; Project Hastur: An Evolutionary Tower Defense Game; Camelot: An Interactive Narrative Sandbox Environment; Bottery; and PASS: A Game for Social Skills Training.

Finally, the main conference program will be preceded by two workshop days on November 13 and 14. The workshops are as follows:

Artificial Intelligence for
Strategy Games
(W1) *November 13*
skatgame.net/mburo/aiide18ws

Experimental AI in Games Workshop
(W2) *November 13-14*
www.exag.org

Joint Intelligent Narrative Technologies / Intelligent Cinematography and Editing Workshop
(W3) *November 13-14*
sites.google.com/ncsu.edu/intwiced18

Learning to Play: Multi-Agent
Reinforcement Learning in
MalmÖ Competition
(W4) *November 14*
marlo-ai.github.io

The full conference program and registration information is available at aiide.org. The late registration deadline is October 12. Onsite rates will be in effect after that date. Preregistration is strongly encouraged. The online registration form is available at www. regonline. zcom/aiide18, and will be open through the conference period. Onsite registration will be held in the foyer of the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) Building, University of Alberta, North Campus. For more information about registration or hotels in the area, please consult www.aiide.org, or write to aiide18@aaai.org.

ICWSM To Be Held in Germany in 2019

Please join us for the Thirteenth International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media, to be held at the Conference Center Kolpinghaus Munich Central GmbH, in Munich, Germany, June 11–14, 2019. 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. Full conference details will be posted at www.icwsm .org/2019 as they become available.

AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2019 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, please contact AAAI at fellows19@aaai.org. Nomination materials are available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php. The deadline for nominations is September 28, 2018.

2019 AAAI Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of several special awards in 2019, and is currently seeking nominations for the 2019 Feigenbaum Prize, the 2019 AAAI Classic Paper Award, the AAAI Distinguished Service Award, and the AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator Award. 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 2019 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Eighteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 2002 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The 2019 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. The AAAI/EAAI Outstand-

ing Educator Award honors a person (or group of people) who has made major contributions to AI education that provide long-lasting benefits to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-19 in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at aaai.org/Awards/awards.php. The deadline for nominations is September 28, 2018. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at awards19@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 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 28, 2018. For complete details and the application form, please see www.aaai.org/Awards/senior.php, or contact Carol Hamilton at seniormember19@aaai.org.

AAAI Elects New President-Elect and Executive Councilors

AAAI is pleased to announce and congratulate the new slate of officers and councilors for the AAAI Executive Council.

President
Yolanda Gil (USC Information Sciences Institute, USA)

Past President
Subbarao Kambhampati (Arizona State University, USA)

President-Elect
Bart Selman (Cornell University, USA)

Secretary-Treasurer
David E. Smith

Incoming Councilors (through 2021)

Cristina Conati (University of British Columbia, Canada)

Eric Eaton (University of Pennsylvania, USA)

Ayanna Howard (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA)

Ariel Procaccia (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)

In addition to these individuals, eight councilors elected in 2016 and 2017 will continue their terms of service during the coming year. For a complete list, please refer to www.aaai.org/Organization/officers.php.

AAAI also thanks the four retiring Councilors, for their dedicated service and generous donations of time: Charles Isbell (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA), Diane Litman (University of Pittsburgh, USA), Jennifer Neville (Purdue University, USA), and Kiri L. Wagstaff (Jet Propulsion Laboratory, USA).

AAAI Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council Meeting was held on February 3, 2018 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Attending: Subbarao Kambhampati, Yolanda Gil, Tom Dietterich, Ted Senator, David Smith, Blai Bonet, Gene Freuder, Ashok Goel, Charles Isbell, David Leake, Diane Litman, Steve Smith, Matthijs Spaan, Peter Stone, Kiri Wagstaff, Shlomo Zilberstein, Sheila McIlraith, Kilian Weinberger, Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton.

Not attending: Jennifer Neville, Mausam, Michela Milano, Qiang Yang, Claire Monteleoni, Cynthia Rudin

AAAI president Rao Kambhampati commenced the meeting at 9:00 AM

First Call for Nominations for 2019 Executive Council Election

The 2019 Nominating Committee is seeking nominations from the AAAI membership for the position of Executive Councilor. In 2019, AAAI members will elect four new councilors to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. All elected councilors are required to attend all council meetings each year (usually 1-2 in person and 2-3 via telecon), and actively participate in AAAI activities. Nominees must be current members of AAAI. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular AAAI members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. (Student and institutional members are not eligible to submit candidates' names.) The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate eight candidates for councilor in early spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI regular members will vote in late spring, and the new members of the Executive Council will be installed in the summer of 2019.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the following information to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 2275 East Bayshore Road, Suite 160, Palo Alto, CA 94303; by fax to 650/321-4457; or by email to hamilton@aaai.org:

Name

Affiliation

City, State or Province, Country

Email address

URL

Year of membership in AAAI

Approximate number of AAAI publications

At least two sentences describing the candidate and why he or she would be a good candidate

Please include any additional information or recommendations that would be helpful to the Nominating Committee. 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 March 1, 2019.

AAAI 2019 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI presents the 2019 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday – Wednesday, March 25–27, 2019, at Stanford University. The topics of the nine symposia will be:

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Autonomous Machines and Human Awareness: User Interventions, Intuition and Mutually Constructed Context
Ranjeev Mittu and Don Sofge (Naval Research Laboratory), W.F. Lawless (Paine College)

Beyond Curve Fitting — Causation, Counterfactuals and Imagination-Based AI
Elias Bareinboim (Purdue University), Sridhar Mahadevan (Adobe & UMass), Prasad Tadepalli (Oregon State), Csaba Szepesvari (DeepMind & University of Alberta), Judea Pearl (University of California, Los Angeles)

Combining Machine Learning with Knowledge Engineering
Andreas Martin and Knut Hinkelmann (FHNW University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland)

Interpretable AI for Well-Being: Understanding Cognitive Bias and Social Embeddedness
Takashi Kido (Preferred Networks, Inc., Japan) and Keiki Takadama (The University of Electro-Communications, Japan)

Privacy-Enhancing Artificial Intelligence and Language Technologies
Shomir Wilson (Pennsylvania State University), Sepideh Ghanavati (University of Maine), Kambiz Ghazinour (Kent State University), Norman Sadeh (Carnegie Mellon University)

Story-Enabled Intelligence
Dylan Holmes (MIT), Leilani H. Gilpin (MIT), Jamie C. Macbeth (Smith College)

Towards Artificial Intelligence for Collaborative, Open Scientific Discovery
Evan Patterson (Stanford University), Ioana Baldini (IBM Research AI), Peter Bull (DrivenData)

Conscious AI Systems
Antonio Chella (University of Palermo and ICAR-CNR, Italy), David Gamez (Middlesex University, UK), Patrick Lincoln (SRI International), Riccardo Manzotti (IULM University, Italy) Jonathan Pfautz (DARPA)

Verification of Neural Networks
Clark Barrett (Stanford University) and Alessio Lomuscio (Imperial College London, UK)

For additional information, and links to the supplementary websites for each symposium, please see www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss19.php.

Submissions for the symposia are due to organizers on November 2, 2018. Notification of acceptance will be given by December 3, 2018. Registration information will be available by December 15, 2018.

Please contact AAAI at sss19@aaai.org with any questions.

and welcomed everyone. He noted there were two very important issues on the day's agenda, including the Publications Transition Committee Report and the Code of Conduct. Participants introduced themselves, as this was the first in-person meeting for the new councilors.

Minutes

The Council approved the minutes of the November 30, 2017 meeting.

Updates from the President

Kambhampati noted that the current AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society is one of the first examples of this kind of cooperation between the two societies. Francesca Rossi worked tirelessly to make the conference a reality, and it has been very suc-

cessful, with over 250 participants. Several companies have provided sponsorship and the conference overall has garnered a lot of interest from industry and the press. One last-minute addition was a graphic recording of the conference.

The AAAI-18 conference is livestreaming the invited talks this year, which will give access to the talks in a

AAAI Member News

Wolfgang Wahlster Honored

AAAI congratulates AAAI Fellow Wolfgang Wahlster for the unique distinction of being made an honorary citizen by his hometown of Saarbruecken, Germany. Wahlster is being honored for establishing Saarbruecken as an internationally recognized place for research excellence in computer science and AI during the last 35 years. Only three others have been appointed as honorary citizens of Saarbrueckenin during the last 15 years, including Willi Graf, Tavi Avni, and Max Braun. Honorary citizenship is the highest honor a German community can award.

Wolfgang Wahlster is the Director and CEO of the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) and a professor of computer science at Saarland University. He has published more than 200 technical papers and 12 books on user modeling, spoken dialog systems, mobile and multimodal user interfaces, the semantic web, as well as the internet of things and services. He is a Fellow of AAAI, ECCAI, and GI. In 2001, the president of Germany presented the German Future Prize to Wahlster for his work on intelligent user interfaces, the highest personal scientific award in Germany. He was elected Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Nobel Prize Academy of Sciences in Stockholm and Full Member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina that was founded in 1652.

He has been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit, First Class of Germany. He holds honorary doctorates from the universities of Darmstadt, Linkoeping and Maastricht. He serves on the Executive Boards of the International Computer Science Institute at UC Berkeley and EIT Digital. He is the editor of Springer's Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence series and serves on the editorial board of various top international computer-science journals. In 2013, Wolfgang Wahlster received the IJCAI Donald E. Walker award for his substantial contributions, as well as his extensive service to the field of AI throughout his career.

more timely manner than in the past. Kambhampati will be tweeting the livestreaming link.

AAAI has a seat on the Partnership for AI (PAI), which Kambhampati currently fills. The group established seven thematic pillars last year and is now forming working groups around those pillars. PAI is now asking partnership members if they want to serve on those working groups, and Kambhampati will be following up with specific people on that request. He will nominate interested individuals and the PAI will select the final participants. PAI will be establishing its headquarters in San Francisco, California USA.

AAAI has hired a Media Relations firm to spearhead media interest. The firm has vetted interest from the press, and has organized a press conference during the conference.

The Community Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6 at 5:00 PM. This meeting is open to all conference registrants and AAAI members. Ted Senator noted that this meeting also satisfies the requirement for the annual AAAI business meeting.

Yolanda Gil noted that AAAI signed a memorandum of understanding with Iridescent Learning, who do outreach for K-12 learners. A tutorial was held to teach AI researchers how to develop devices that can be used in outreach, and a follow-up event was held in a local school. One hundred and thirty families signed up to participate in a hands-on building project requiring AI engineering. The AAAI event kicked off a large campaign for Iridescent, during which they will hold similar events in 100 countries, featuring the Curiosity Machine. Gil hopes this effort will grow at future AAAI conferences.

Standing Committee Reports

Awards and Fellows Committees

Tom Dietterich, chair of these two committees, reported that the awards process overall had a larger set of nominations this year, which better represented the diversity of the field along several different lines, including international affiliation, research area, gender, as well as others. He noted that we do not get enough nominees for the Distinguished Service Award, and he encouraged everyone to consider who appropriate candidates might be. In addition, there is still considerable room for growth in the Senior Members program. Dietterich also mentioned that there is an outstanding proposal for a Dissertation Award, which would be given jointly by AAAI and ACM/SIGAI. The proposal is currently being reviewed by ACM. It is hoped that the first round of nominations will be accepted in Fall 2018. The winner will be given a speaking slot in a parallel session at the AAAI conference. One requirement currently being reviewed is whether one must be a pro-

fessor to serve on the selection committee, or is it possible for someone from industry to serve on the committee. Dietterich noted that his main concern is that people on the committee would have been recently involved in reading dissertations. Both David Smith and Kiri Wagstaff noted that they serve on similar awards committees and are actively involved in these processes, so perhaps membership does not have to be limited to professors. Charles Isbell asked for clarification about whether both supervising and serving on committees should be required, or just serving on committees. Dietterich agreed that recent service on a dissertation committee should be sufficient.

Conference

Sheila McIlraith and Kilian Weinberger, AAAI-18 program cochairs, presented a report on the conference submission and review process. McIlraith noted that the technical submissions and final content of the conference is the largest in 32 years. Weinberger reviewed statistics for attendance, submissions, and acceptances, noting that all were significantly higher than in 2017. Although the cochairs had recruited a large set of reviewers in order to reduce reviewer load, they ended up keeping the same reviewer load but being well prepared for the tremendous spike in submissions. The acceptance rate remained at the same level as 2017, netting a much larger number of technical papers for the conference. In examining the origin of papers by country, they discovered that there was a 60 percent increase from China, with the next largest increase coming from the US. The US also had the largest rate of accepted papers. China's acceptance rate remained the same as in 2017, despite the larger number of submissions. The largest research area for accepted papers was machine learning, followed by vision and NLP and machine learning. Vision experienced a 257 percent increase in submissions, along with a 285 percent increase in acceptances. This caused the biggest strain on the program committee. McIlraith and Weinberger noted that many of the papers in other areas use machine learning techniques. The cochairs

made an effort to attract more machine learning work by placing the submission deadlines after the Neural Information Processing Systems conference (NIPS) notification date, and explicitly invited NIPS resubmissions in the call for papers. McIlraith noted that it was difficult to know how many papers were submitted as a result of the resubmission option in the call for papers as authors were not required to state if this was the case. McIlraith suggested that the Conference Committee should consider the submission and attendance statistics carefully for future planning in order to maintain the high quality of the AAAI conference, and to continue to serve the traditional base of researchers who regularly attend AAAI. While many machine-learning students attended the conference to present their work, it was more difficult to find session chairs for the machine learning sessions. This may suggest that machine learning researchers do not consider AAAI their home conference. McIlraith thanked all the members of the program committee who stepped up to accept greater loads due to the dramatic increase in submissions.

Ted Senator inquired about the difference between applications or machine learning application papers and IAAI papers. McIlraith and Weinberger noted that the keywords have been used for several years, and that authors are allowed to self-identify the appropriate category for their paper. They did not classify papers. It might be time to review the standard keywords to be sure they are still appropriate for classifying papers as accurately as possible.

Weinberger noted that acceptance rates for the largest areas of submission (machine learning [ML], vision [VIS] and natural language [NL]) were fairly consistent. Most areas hovered at the overall 25 percent acceptance rate, with a few areas below that and several 5–10 percent higher than that. Gil noted that the elimination of the two special tracks on computational sustainability and AI and cognitive systems did not seem to affect the submission and acceptance on papers in those areas, so it appears that the two special tracks of the past several years were affective.

McIlraith and Weinberger reminded the group that they enforced a new rule, strictly limiting the number of submissions to 10 per author. While the vast majority of authors only had one submission, over 150 still had more than 5 each. IJCAI is now enforcing a similar rule. In addition, AAAI does not allow author names to be added after submission. There was a short discussion about how these requirements were tracked at the final submission stage and whether there might be any way for original submission information to be imported into the digital library to reduce the need for manual entry and checking. Mike Hamilton noted that it is important for the author to submit the final data because of publication requirements, and assured the group that all papers are thoroughly checked for submission and formatting requirements. Finally, the cochairs noted that the number of allowed pages was increased to seven, plus one for references only. Weinberger remarked that allowing an indefinite number of pages for references is becoming more commonplace, and that the conference committee might consider this option.

While AAAI-18 did not have special tracks as in the past, it did have three areas that were closely overseen by special tracks chairs — human AI collaboration, cognitive systems, and computational sustainability. Human AI collaboration was identified as a special emerging area, and was given a dedicated track in the conference, including four 30-minute invited presentations. Rather than separate program committees and separate reviewing tracks, these areas were folded into the main reviewing system to allow for more consistent reviewing and also to acknowledge that they may cross over several areas in their content. The track chairs suggested program committee members to cover these areas and served as second area chairs on all submitted papers in their respective areas. Authors were given the opportunity to self-identify to be eligible to participate in the special review process for these special tracks. As with all papers, the area chairs, special track chairs, and senior program committee (SPC) members were given the opportunity to

assign one known and trusted reviewer to each of their assigned papers.

Shlomo Zilberstein complimented McIlraith and Weinberger on the process that they used and asked them if they thought it worked well and should continue in the future. They reported that it did work well, but would like to have had larger participation in the reviewer assignment process by eligible people. For 2018 there was only a small 2-day window during which this could be done, and they would like to see the practice built into the system earlier. A short discussion ensued about the tradeoffs in not having special tracks, especially for the cognitive systems area. Zilberstein expressed his hope that AAAI settles on an approach to all of these issues that can be consistent for several years. Kambhampati noted that it will be important to loop the 2019 cochairs into the discussion.

Weinberger and McIlraith explained the reviewing process. They decided to use the Conference Management Toolkit (CMT) system, which could be integrated with the Toronto Paper Matching System. Neither ConfMaster nor EasyChair were able to provide this option. They also added another level to the program committee structure with 63 area, special, and emerging topics chairs. Unfortunately, CMT was not able to easily adapt to this extra level, but the cochairs created a workaround to differentiate area chairs from the senior program committee. Finally, they created a workflow chair, who worked with Weinberger on developing scripts to process the TPMS data and bids.

Weinberger and McIlraith pointed out two things that they would like 2019 cochairs to consider. First, the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) deadline at the end of the AAAI-18 week may have affected attendance by machine learning researchers at AAAI-18. Second, AAAI-18 still has a very small sponsorship rate compared to other conferences, such as IJCAI, NIPS, or ICML. Third, future chairs should further address the issue of inferior reviews up front to clarify the expectation for an acceptable review.

Another area that they did not have time to pursue was a mechanism to help improve the quality of oral presentations. Some ideas that were considered for this effort included creating an AAAI YouTube channel to archive talks or invited talks; requiring authors to do a trial run of their presentation for an area chair or SPC member (NIPS requires this); or requiring authors to submit their slides ahead of time for review. Peter Stone noted that the NIPS program also fostered student-faculty connections. McIlraith also mentioned the possibility of creating an online form for feedback to authors about their talks during the conference (opt-in only). Gil suggested having a speaker helpdesk where students could go for help with their slides and talk. She also suggested a webinar or conference session for reviewers to learn how to review better.

Kambhampati thanked Weinberger and McIlraith for the huge effort they put in to deal with the enormous upsurge in submissions and reviewing, as well as to create a memorable invited speaker program and the new emerging topic program. He noted that they worked until the last possible moment, arranging for a special debate to be held that evening. The Council also thanked them for all their work.

Zilberstein thanked the program chairs and also thanked the Executive Council for their support during his tenure as Conference Committee chair. He will be stepping down, and will be replaced by Peter Stone. Kambhampati thanked Zilberstein for his years of service, and also thanked Stone for assuming this responsibility. Finally, Weinberger and McIlraith thanked Carol Hamilton and the rest of the AAAI staff for all their support during the planning and execution of the conference.

Finance

Ted Senator reviewed the financial status of the organization, giving a brief history dating back to 2002. In particular, he noted the percentage that can be withdrawn each year from the investments. The standard practice for nonprofits and universities is to remain in the 3–5 percent range. In recent years, we have withdrawn less than that. Senator also noted that our financial policy states that we try to keep no more than 65 percent in equities or stocks, and 35 percent in bonds. At the end of December 2017, we rebalanced the investment portfolio to better align our accounts with the policy.

Recently, Senator did an analysis to see if our international investments align with the international make-up of our members. Interestingly, the investment distributions by region, compared to memberships in those regions, were close. Going forward this alignment may be important should our expenses not always be based in US dollars.

Senator thanked people for reviewing the tax returns last fall, and noted that this tax return requirement ensures transparency. He also reported that the budget was approved prior to the commencement of the fiscal year 2018. Gil asked about the pending bylaws issue. Hamilton explained that she will be following up on this with the AAAI lawyer to identify all sections of the bylaws that are currently out of sync with current practice. Senator thanked the Council for his 15 years as Secretary-Treasurer, and Kambhampati thanked Senator for his extraordinary service. Kambhampati nominated David Smith as Senator's successor, and asked for approval of this appointment. The motion carried unanimously.

Publications

David Leake reviewed the Publications Transition Plan, put together by members of the Publications Committee and a few other people with experience in related areas, such as social media and open source publications. The committee identified the types of publishing activities that AAAI should support moving forward, and then what would be the most effective way to support those activities. Currently, AAAI publishes its own conference proceedings as well as those for several other conferences, technical reports for workshop and symposium papers, and the *AI Magazine*. In addition, there are plans for an expanded online version of *AI Magazine*. In examining publications, the committee evaluated the benefits of each publication to AAAI, AAAI members, and the AI community as a whole, balanced against financial considerations, as well as trends in

content generation and access, and available resources. The committee's work resulted in three proposals: (1) the future scope of AAAI publications, (2) volunteer and staff structure for AAAI publications, and (3) a set of immediate action items. The committee agreed that AAAI should continue to produce the *AI Magazine* in archival hard and electronic (PDF) copy as well as in the proposed expanded online version now in development, emphasizing that *AI Magazine* is the flagship publication for AAAI.

The committee also recommended the continuation of proceedings publication in electronic format, but to discontinue the hard-copy version. The committee recommended discontinuing the production of technical reports for workshops and symposia, leaving open the option for workshop and symposium organizers to publish the work, which is usually very preliminary, at other sites. IJCAI has followed this process for its workshops.

For non-AAAI conferences, proposals will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Publications Committee, taking into account benefits, staff time available, and financial considerations.

The committee also outlined the structure of the publications operation, continuing with the executive director as the publisher, who will hire and supervise staff, and manage expenses according to AAAI policies. They recommended hiring a full-time publications manager, who would eventually replace the current Publications Director, Mike Hamilton. This manager would serve on the Publications Committee, working directly with authors and volunteers. The position will require an experienced and skilled candidate due to the complex set of responsibilities involved in the publications process. The *AI Magazine*, led by the editor in chief, will fall under the purview of the Publications Committee, and will be guided by an advisory board, including, for instance, the previous editor of the magazine.

The editor in chief will nominate a series of associate editors, who will be assisted by the *AI Magazine* Editorial Board. Each associate editor will assume responsibility for a specific issue of the magazine, and will be over-

seen by the editor in chief. All appointments will be approved by the Publications Committee chair, in consultation with the Publications Committee, as needed. The editor in chief would also be approved by the president. All positions are for three-year terms to encourage participation. Renewal of terms could be considered.

The action items needing immediate approval were as follows: (1) The executive director should hire a publications manager as soon as possible, with input from the president, Publications Committee chair, and editor in chief; (2) The editor in chief should recruit the members of the Advisory Board and associate editors; (3) The editor in chief should develop a phased proposal for the web version of the magazine, including a list of requirements, which will be evaluated by the executive director and Executive Council, should there be significant financial impact for them. The executive director will keep the Executive Committee or Executive Council apprised of potential needs for additional resources and staff in the publications area; and (4) The committee proposed a regular annual evaluation of the *AI Magazine* in all formats with the aim of finding ways to continually improve the magazine. The review would be conducted by the editor in chief, in conjunction with the Publications Committee chair. The results would be referred to the Publications Committee with a plan for implementation of recommendations.

Diane Litman inquired whether the Publications Committee has ever considered the publication of a hybrid technical paper-journal paper model, often seen in the database community. Leake deferred the inquiry to the Conference Committee. Zilberstein noted that the journal paper track has been used with some success by other conferences. While AAAI cannot publish previously published work, AAAI may encourage authors to present their journal work at the conference in the future. The publication of an extended abstract might be possible.

Zilberstein asked about the possibility of making AAAI papers more routinely included in indexing databases. Hamilton responded that the assignment of DOIs to all proceedings papers

is scheduled for completion in the next 18 months. This will make indexing of these papers quite routine.

Gil asked if the Publications Committee considered moving away from a central publications process to a more online, distributed function. Leake noted that the committee did consider this model, but decided that for the flagship publications it was important to maintain very high quality that could only be achieved by having an in-house function.

Isbell asked if the symposium and workshop organizers will be given explicit instructions about how they can use the AAAI name and logo when seeking publication at another site. Leake agreed that these guidelines should be distributed to organizers before any action is taken. He will review the current guidelines and revise them as needed.

Gene Freuder asked if the migration to an electronic-only publication of the proceedings might provide an opportunity to simplify the camera-ready submission process. Leake will follow up on this with the Publications Committee in conjunction with the Conference Committee.

Blai Bonet pointed out that other conferences will require stability moving forward, and Leake agreed, noting that they will also need sufficient lead time to make other arrangements if necessary. Goel responded to David Smith about whether the online version of the *AI Magazine* will be quarterly or more dynamic. He explained that the print and PDF version of the magazine will continue to be quarterly, but that the online version will have several dynamic features. It will feature more than just articles, including things like columns, podcasts, blogs, and a member-only area for comments about specific articles. Freuder inquired about whether the manager would be an expert in online systems; Goel responded that his upcoming proposal requests an additional hire for someone who will be an expert in such things as website maintenance, user experience, and topical layout, for instance.

Dietterich noted that we need to consider whether we want to hire an in-house webmaster. Hamilton noted

that we currently have outside assistance with the development and maintenance of the website, and this resource may be sufficient for the early stages of the online *AI Magazine* delivery. Gil asked about a timeline, and Leake noted that they hope to hire a manager as soon as possible. Freuder asked about whether the elimination of some of the publications will result in less of a time commitment for the publications manager. Leake and staff responded that the concentration on the main proceedings (and possibly other proceedings) and the *AI Magazine* will make the job manageable as opposed to what it is now. In addition, the publications manager will rely on trained freelancers or other services to complete many of the routine tasks.

Leake thanked Mike Hamilton for all of his work on publications, and Kambhampati thanked the Publications Transition Committee for its work on putting together such a detailed proposal.

Goel gave a status report on the *AI Magazine*, including recent and planned future issues. He noted that getting guest editors for each issue is quite challenging. Goel has moved away from special issues on specific topic areas, instead featuring articles from award winners, invited speakers, tutorial speakers, or AAAI Fellows. He is hoping that articles derived from invited talks at other conferences will help build bridges to those communities. A side effect might be to increase interest and membership in AAAI. He also gave a brief overview of the online magazine plans, which he hopes will be very dynamic and multi-modal. The schedule could be as frequent as daily, and it will be very accessible and searchable. The magazine will have both member and nonmember areas. The member area will include an area where they can publish things accessible by members only. He reiterated that the traditional quarterly format of the magazine will feature mainly expository article in the future. He envisions the addition of many columns — perhaps about 20 — often linking AI to a specific topic area, such as education or computer vision, with the goal of building further bridges. Special forums on topical

issues, such as AI and Ethics, will also be added. He may work with other publications on exchanging certain articles. The online content will be curated.

Goel presented a timeline for rollout of the online magazine, noting that the earliest version would not be available for another 6–8 months. Goel has recruited five associate editors, who were former members of the *AI Magazine* Editorial Board. Goel's vision for the Editorial Board is to increase the size and ongoing participation of the members by making each person responsible for a specific column in the magazine.

Several current members of the Editorial Board opted to move to the newly formed Advisory Board instead. Goel requested that an additional full-time staff member be hired for a preliminary period of three years whose primary responsibility will be to design, curate, and maintain the *AI Magazine* website. He also requested a half-time administrative assistant at AAAI for an initial period of one year to help with the management of and communication with the newly expanded *AI Magazine* structure, including the five new associate editors and 20 column editors.

Carol Hamilton noted that some of the tasks that need to be accomplished may be covered by the new publications manager, but it is too soon to tell at this point. Kambhampati agreed that we need to get a little further into the proposed publications transition before all of the needs can be assessed. He also shared a concern brought up earlier by Tom Dietterich about the impact on the membership dues of this large increase in overhead expenses.

Gil wondered about the possibility of having someone at Goel's university assist with the management of editorial correspondence. Goel was open to all possibilities, but felt strongly about the need for some support in this area in order not to lose interest from the associate editors that are already on board. Dietterich also asked Goel to consider recalibrating his expectations initially for the online content so that the need for support might not be quite as high, at least in the initial period.

Gene Freuder suggested that it

might be possible to garner corporate sponsors for some of the infrastructure needed to support the magazine. No decision was made on the two requests for additional staff, deferring until after the completion of the publications transition discussed earlier.

Goel will provide a more detailed list of responsibilities for the proposed staff at the next Executive Council meeting, and will also draft a letter to his home institution regarding support from that side. The associate editors will concentrate on the hard copy version of the magazine in the near future. Kambhampati thanked Goel for the time and energy he has already spent on future planning for the magazine.

Ethics
At the last Executive Council meeting, the Ethics Committee presented a first draft of a proposed code of ethics and professional conduct, and asked for feedback. Since that time, they incorporated suggestions into the current draft now up for review by the Council. Overall, the Council had asked for a higher-level document, with less specific language. Kambhampati asked the Council to make final suggested changes to the draft so that the final wording could be approved at the meeting. This will enable the Council to move to the other pending tasks, such as formulating a more detailed harassment policy for AAAI conferences. The Council reviewed the current document line by line and made changes, as needed, discussing in depth issues raised as they progressed.

Peter Stone asked for a bit of background about the statement, and Kambhampati explained that it had been in the works for a couple of years. Francesca Rossi and Sonia Chernova worked on the initial draft, and researched similar statements by other organizations. The existence of this kind of policy enables an organization to institute other operational policies that can point to this as a standard. The purpose of this particular statement is to set a standard for behavior, and is not intended to justify punitive measures for noncompliance. Zilberstein noted that this could be seen as part of our vision statement, making known AAAI values. The current mis-

sion statement for the organization focuses mainly on the charge for the organization and not on professional behavior.

Kambhampati explained that this code of conduct might guide the Council in making a decision about a specific incident or issue being discussed at a future meeting. The Council agreed on a final draft, and asked to have it reviewed by legal counsel. Once reviewed again by the Council, the code of conduct will be posted online for member comments. Ted noted, however, that the Council can approve the code of conduct without member approval. Gil also noted that it is important to have this finalized so that the Council can draft a harassment policy.

Finally, Kambhampati asked for volunteers to serve on the Ethics Committee, as some members have rotated off.

Membership

Gene Freuder noted that the Membership Committee had two major items on their agenda last fall, including the review of the distinguished speaker applications and several pending chapter applications. The distinguished speaker application decisions were made, and a process for implementing the program is currently under development. The committee is awaiting additional information before final decisions are made on the chapter applications. The committee requested that the application form be updated to reflect all the requirements set forth in the chapter program description. Freuder explained that the current applications comprise a wide variety of requests from countries, such as the Dominican Republic and Romania, as well as US-based student chapters. The committee has also been looking at the possibility of adding additional membership categories, particularly in the industry area. The committee suggested that we have a AAAI pin made that could be distributed to new members (and current members at the conference or by request). Gil also suggested that the committee consider stickers instead, as these seem to be more popular.

Tom Dietterich suggested developing a line of t-shirts for people to choose or purchase. New members could select something as a bonus. The committee's idea is to provide a way to promote pride in being a AAAI member. Hamilton will propose a few items for the committee's review.

Government Relations

Steve Smith reported that AAAI joined in a statement with several other organizations, including ACM, IEEE, and CRA, protesting the tax-cut bill, which proposed to remove the waiver for graduate student tuition. The clause was removed from the bill.

Education

Wagstaff noted that the ongoing charge of the committee is to assist in answering mostly student queries that come through the website with general questions about AI or requests for interviews. There are also plans in the works to contribute to a special issue of *AI Magazine* on AI and ethics. Sven Koenig and Meinolf Sellmann will serve as the special editors. The committee is not only focused on the education of students, but also on professional education. Wagstaff suggested the committee might be able to contribute to an effort to improve technical reviews and talks. Gil suggested reaching out to the EAAI community for their input and involvement. Dietterich noted that there was strong interest in professional development opportunities from the membership questionnaire collected a few years ago. Kambhampati mentioned that he would like to have a series of webinars, featuring the Distinguished Speakers. This structure for the distinguished speakers program might prove to be far more effective than sending speakers to specific venues.

Dietterich suggested a follow-up questionnaire to assess interest in specific types of education, such as short tutorials, continuing education credits, and week-long courses. Wagstaff agreed that this would be useful. Gil added that, based on her experience, presenting webinars that are very accessible and get the word out about AI are in high demand and would be very useful to the general public. Freuder noted that efforts to increase engagement from different segments of the community seem to be dispersed among several committees, and that it may be necessary to coordinate these efforts and create a better mechanism to channel these efforts. Hamilton confirmed that the mechanism to survey members is in place.

New Business

Data Liberation Initiative

Tom Kalil, former head of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, is working with the Eric Schmidt Foundation, which is willing to pay to liberate data (mostly from federal agencies). This requires anonymizing the data so that it can be used for various research purposes. Kalil is seeking ideas about what kind of data should be liberated, and wondered if AAAI would like to run a workshop to explore this issue.

Kambhampati is investigating the possibility of a special meeting at the spring symposium or a fall symposium, with follow-up at AAAI-19, and asked for volunteers to help organize a special track. Gil also suggested that we coordinate with ChaLearn, an organization that might be able to better identify whether to begin to identify appropriate data.

AAAI Industry
Engagement Committee

Kambhampati noted that there is currently a large amount of interest in AI from industry and Gene Freuder has been looking at ways to leverage that interest to support outreach activities. Freuder suggested the Council needs to consider how various kinds of industry engagement can shape the organization. Freuder asked for additional members of the committee to help examine the issues. In addition to Council members, he is seeking members who have worked in or closely with industry. Gil nominated Karen Myers, who will chair the IAAI-19 conference. Freuder circulated a list of suggestions for engaging industry, and Kambhampati directed the Council's attention to the topic of running meetings that would be targeted at industry participation rather than technical meetings.

A related issue involves whether we want to participate in industry-based meetings by lending our name and brand and possibly providing an invited speaker. There have been a range of requests for our participation in these

meetings, and it is unclear what level of real participation some of these meetings want, if any. The Council felt strongly that there should be some mechanism for AAAI to showcase recent advances in AI if we are going to lend our name to the event. On the other hand, some meetings may not be ones that we want to lend our name to at all. Kambhampati noted that having clearer policies in place is necessary to deal with the current requests. Hamilton will provide a recap of these requests so that the committee can better assess the need and direction to go.

The Council also discussed whether AAAI should sponsor and organize its own industry event. Senator noted, and others agreed, that we do not have expertise in this kind of conference organization, and it would be difficult to compete in this arena. Instead, we should try to leverage the current interest in AI in order to showcase IAAI deployed applications or other noteworthy research trends on AI.

Gil suggested connecting more with research in industry, developing outreach efforts to involve those individuals and labs more in our activities. Concentrating our efforts on industry conferences that are focused on markets and forecasting would be quite removed from AAAI's research focus. Creating a channel for academics to connect with industry would be quite valuable for members and conference attendees. We could sponsor a forum where people could come to find out about a wide spectrum of research in AI — not just machine learning or data mining — but a whole range of technologies in AI.

Senator mentioned that KDD has developed an invited track that features senior researchers in industry who employ data science, and have use applied data science to achieve a research goal. The sessions tend to attract large audiences, but do not compete with the research conference.

Gil noted that the AI in Practice session at AAAI-17 followed this model. The AI in Practice event was not held in 2018 for a variety of reasons, including competing programs and the availability of local industry representatives to speak. Kambhampati noted that moving it to the afternoon of the last day might avoid the problems encountered with competing tutorials in 2017. IJCAI did this in 2016 and it was quite successful.

AI Hub

Tom Dietterich reported that they have not reached the fundraising goal yet, so they are investigating other vehicles for funding, such as funding agencies or the Partnership for AI.

AI Topics

Kambhampati reported that *AI Topics* is seeking a renewal of their contract for two years at $20,000 per year. He asked the Council to consider the various models currently being considered, including *AI Topics,* AI Hub and the expansion of *AI Magazine.* Tom Dietterich explained that AI Hub will feed off of *AI Topics,* as AI Hub is just an aggregator for these kinds of services. Hamilton noted that both AI Hub and the *AI Magazine* expansion are in the rudimentary stages, and encouraged the Council to continue *AI Topics* at this time. Currently, there is $10,000 in the 2018 budget. The request was referred to the Executive Committee for a final recommendation.

Social Media Volunteers

Kambhampati is seeking volunteers to help with social media alerts on Facebook and Twitter. Tom Dietterich volunteered to help, and Jennifer Neville is also helping with this effort. Hamilton noted that a staff member might be able to help with routine posts.

Conflict of Interest

Ted Senator presented an overview of the current concept for the AAAI Conflict of Interest statement, which is intended to elaborate the responsibilities of the Executive Council. It further defines the duty of loyalty, one of the three primary duties of Executive Council members. Often conflict of interest statements refer directly to financial dealings — a subject also covered in the AAAI Bylaws — but this iteration is intended to be a bit broader in scope.

Due to the many hats that councilors wear in their professional and volunteer commitments, this document is meant to address issues that might arise with regard to split loyalties. In general, it is the responsibility of the individual to disclose a conflict of interest, in conjunction with independent determination, meaning that the individual cannot be the sole determiner of a conflict of interest. Finally, individuals must recuse themselves from discussion of and final decisions regarding an issue identified as a conflict of interest.

While there are well-established principles for dealing with conflicts of interest, Senator asked the group to consider some of the ways that council members might encounter conflicts of interest.

Isbell asked if AAAI currently has a process in place for independent determination, and Senator confirmed that there is no process in place yet. He also noted that in addition to determining the process, the Council also has to consider how it will be applied in the future. Having a conflict of interest statement and process in place is an additional requirement of the IRS, and appears as a question on the tax form. AAAI councilors will be required to acknowledge this policy in writing.

David Smith reported that he and Ted Senator have been reviewing two possible versions, and will draft a final version. Kambhampati recommended that the legal version required by the IRS should be completed as soon as possible, and reviewed by legal counsel. A second accompanying document will be added later to encompass issues that are unique to AAAI councilors and program chairs. Isbell offered to assist with the drafting of these documents.

Ajournment

Kambhampati adjourned the meeting at 3:45 PM.