

AAAI News

Winter News from the American Association for Artificial Intelligence

AAAI Fellow Nominations Solicited

The 2001 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 AI over at least a 10-year period. All regular members in good standing are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. Two references (at least one from a current AAAI fellow) must accompany nominations. For further information about the Fellows Program or to receive nomination and reference forms, please contact AAAI at 650-328-3123; by fax at 650-321-4457; or by e-mail at fellows@aaai.org. Nomination materials are also available on our web site. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2001.

IJCAI-01

Mark your calendars now for IJCAI-01! The Seventeenth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-01) will be held August 4–10 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, Washington. This is the first IJCAI on the North American continent since 1985. In addition to the traditional IJCAI programs, such as the technical paper and invited speaker programs, the tutorials, workshops, and exhibits, there will be several collocated events. These include the AAAI Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-01), the SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Con-

sortium, the AAAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, RoboCup, and the finals of the high school Botball Competition. Please check the IJCAI web site (www.ijcai-01.org) for all the details and deadlines for these programs as well as announcements about other new features.

A few important deadlines to note on your calendar:

- *January 8, 2001:* IJCAI-01 Electronic Title Page and Paper Submission Deadline
- *January 9, 2001:* IJCAI-01 Hard-Copy Paper Submission Deadline
- *January 24, 2001:* IAAI-01 Submission Deadline
- *February 12, 2001:* SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Consortium Application Deadline
- *March 19, 2001:* IJCAI-01 Acceptance Notification
- *April 10, 2001:* Deadline for Receipt of Camera-Ready Copy

Information about the conference is available by writing to ijcai@aaai.org or at www.ijcai-01.org.

Collocated Events in Seattle

IJCAI and AAAI are delighted to announce the collocation in Seattle of the following events:

- *Thirteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-01).* Washington State Convention Center, August 4-6, 2001 (www.aaai.org/Conferences/IAAI/2001/iaai01.html).
- *RoboCup 2001.* Washington State Convention Center, August 1-10, 2001 (www.cs.cmu.edu/~robocup2001/)
- *Seventeenth Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI-2001).* Univer-

sity of Washington, August 2–5, (robotics.stanford.edu/~uai01/)

IJCAI-01 Workshop Program

The following 29 workshops have been chosen for inclusion in the IJCAI-01 Workshop Program. The workshops will be held Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, July 4–6, in Seattle, Washington. Please consult the IJCAI-01 web site for more information regarding schedules and guidelines for participation. The chair of the IJCAI-01 Workshop Program is Peter van Beek at the University of Waterloo (vanbeek@uwaterloo.ca).

- *AGENT-1: Spatial and Temporal Reasoning with 'Agents' Focus.* H.W. Guesgen (hans@cs.auckland.ac.nz)
- *AGENT-2: Autonomy, Delegation, and Control: Interacting with Autonomous Agents.* R. Falcone (falcone@www.ip.rm.cnr.it)
- *AGENT-3: Economic Agents, Models, and Mechanisms.* A. Greenwald (amygreen@cs.brown.edu)
- *CONS-1: Modeling and Solving Problems with Constraints.* C. Bessiere (bessiere@lirmm.fr)
- *CONS-2: Distributed Constraint Reasoning.* M.-C. Silaghi (silaghi@lia.di.epfl.ch)
- *KRR-1: Knowledge Management and Organizational Memories.* R. Dieng (Rose.Dieng@sophia.inria.fr)
- *KRR-2: Abductive Reasoning.* F. Toni (ft@doc.ic.ac.uk)
- *KRR-3: Nonmonotonic Reasoning, Action and Change.* M. Theilscher (mit@inf.tu-dresden.de)
- *KRR-4: Inconsistency in Data and Knowledge.* J. Chomicki (chomicki@cse.buffalo.edu)
- *ML-1: Adaptive Text Extraction and Mining.* N. Kushmerick (nick@ucd.ie)
- *ML-2: Learning from Temporal and Spatial Data.* M. Kubat (mkubat@cacs.usl.edu)
- *ML-3: Text Learning: Beyond Supervision.* A. McCallum (mccallum@whizbang.com)
- *ML-4: Knowledge Discovery from Distributed, Dynamic, Heterogeneous, Autonomous Data and Knowledge Sources.* V. Honavar (honavar@cs.iastate.edu)
- *ML-5: Wrappers for Performance Enhancement in KDD.* W.H. Hsu (bhsu@ringil.cis.ksu.edu)
- *ONTOL-1: Ontology Learning.* S. Staab (sst@aifb.uni-karlsruhe.de)
- *ONTOL-2: Ontologies and Information Sharing.* H. Stuckenschmidt (heiner@tzi.de)

- ONTOL-3: *IEEE Standard Upper Ontology*. A. Pease (apease@teknnowledge.com)
- OTTO-1: *Stochastic Search*. H. Hoos (hoos@cs.ubc.ca)
- OTTO-2: *Empirical Methods in AI*. T. Stuetzle (tom@intellektik.informatik.tu-darmstadt.de)
- OTTO-3: *Effective Interactive AI Resources*. R. Greiner (greiner@cs.ualberta.ca)
- PRO-1: *Reasoning with Uncertainty in Robotics*. D. Fox, A. Saffiotti (fox@cs.washington.edu)
- PRO-2: *Planning under Uncertainty and Incomplete Information*. J. Rintanen (rintanen@informatik.uni-freiburg.de)
- PRO-3: *Planning with Resources*. A. Nareyek (alex@ai-center.com)
- TASK-1: *AI in Mobile Systems*. R. Malaka (Rainer.Malaka@EML.Villa-Bosch.de)
- TASK-2: *Configuration*. T. Soininen (Timo.Soininen@hut.fi)
- TASK-3: *AI and Manufacturing*. D. Gaines (daniel.m.gaines@vanderbilt.edu)
- TASK-4: *Knowledge and Reasoning in Practical Dialogue Systems*. K. Jokinen (kristina.jokinen@sail.com)
- WEB-1: *E-Business and the Intelligent Web*. A. Preece (apreece@csd.abdn.ac.uk)
- WEB-2: *Intelligent Techniques for Web Personalization*. S. S. Anand (sarab@mineit.com)

IJCAI-01 Student Programs

AAAI and IJCAI are pleased to announce the continuation of their Scholarship and Volunteer Programs for students interested in attending the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Seattle, Washington, USA, August 4–10, 2001. The U.S. Scholarship Program provides partial travel support and a complimentary technical program registration for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at U.S. colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the technical program or letters of recommendation from their faculty adviser; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 15, 2001. 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.

After the conference, an expense report will be required to account for the funds awarded. For further information about the U.S. Scholarship Program or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at scholarships@aaai.org, or 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA; 650-328-3123 phone; 650-321-4457 fax.

Separate travel award programs are available for international students through IJCAI and other national societies. In addition, IJCAI will continue its travel support program for junior scientists from developing countries who have problems with currency conversion. For information regarding any of these international programs, please write to Priscilla Rasmussen at rasmussen@cs.rutgers.edu or IJCAI at 75 Paterson Street, Suite 9, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA, 732-342-9100 phone, 732-342-9339 fax.

International students and junior scientists should first contact their local societies to see if support is available. If no other support is available, they can apply to IJCAI for support by submitting three copies of a letter of application that includes (1) applicant name/address/e-mail, (2) status of applicant (undergraduate, graduate student, junior faculty, and so on), (3) type of planned participation at IJCAI-01 (technical or workshop paper presentation, and so on), (4) an estimate of attendance costs, (5) whether other societies have been approached for support and result and any other sources of possible support, and (6) a letter of support from the adviser (student applicants only). A postconference report and receipts will be required to obtain the award after the close of the conference. The deadline for submission of applications is April 15, 2001, to Priscilla Rasmussen at the previous address. Should applications exceed available funding, priority will be given to (1) students presenting technical session papers, (2) junior scientists from developing countries presenting technical papers, (3) students presenting workshop papers, and (4) junior scientists from developing countries participating in the conference in other ways.

All student scholarship recipients will be required to participate in the Student Volunteer Program to support IJCAI organizers in Seattle. The Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference, and student participation is a valuable contribution.

Students not requiring travel assistance should only apply for the Volunteer Program, which provides complimentary registration to full-time students, including conference proceedings, in exchange for assisting IJCAI-01 organizers in Seattle. This program does not provide any scholarship funds and is designed for local students or students who have other sources for travel funds. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at volunteer@aaai.org. The deadline for volunteer applications is May 31, 2001.

2001 Spring Symposium Series

The 2001 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 26–28, 2001, at Stanford University and will feature seven symposia:

- Answer Set Programming: Toward Efficient and Scalable Knowledge Representation and Reasoning
- Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Entertainment
- Game-Theoretic and Decision-Theoretic Agents
- Learning Grounded Representations
- Model-Based Validation of Intelligence
- Robotics and Education
- Robust Autonomy

Registration materials have been mailed to all AAAI members and invited participants. They are also available on the AAAI web site. Please note that the deadline for registration for invited participants is February 9, and the general registration deadline is February 26.

2001 Fall Symposium Series

The following five symposia have been selected for the 2000 Fall Symposium Series, which will be held at the Sea Crest Conference Center in North Falmouth, Massachusetts:

- Anchoring Symbols to Sensor Data in Single and Multiple Robot Systems. *Cochairs:* Silvia Coradeschi (silvia.coradeschi@tech.oru.se) and Alessandro Saffiotti (alessandro.saffiotti@tech.oru.se)
- Emotional and Intelligent II: The Tangled Knot of Social Cognition. *Chair:* Lola Canamero (lola@lri.fr)
- Intent Inference for Collaborative Tasks. *Chair:* Benjamin Bell (benjamin.l.bell@lmco.com)
- Negotiation Methods for Autonomous Cooperative Systems. *Chair:* Costas Tsatsoulis (tsatsoul@ittc.ukans.edu)
- Using Uncertainty within Computation. *Cochairs:* Carla Gomes (gomes@cs.cornell.edu) and Toby Walsh (tw@cs.york.ac.uk)

The deadline for submissions is March 30, 2001. The Call for Participation has been sent to all AAAI members and posted on the AAAI web site.

Minutes, AAAI Executive Council Meeting

Austin Texas, July 30, 2000.

Attending: Bruce Buchanan, Jan Aikins, Tim Finin, Ken Ford, Barbara Grosz, Jim Hendler, Haym Hirsh, Henry Kautz, David Leake, Tom Mitchell, Norm Nielsen, Paul Rosenbloom, Stuart Russell, Reid Simmons, Manuela Veloso, David Waltz, Michael Wellman, Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton

AAAI President Bruce Buchanan opened the meeting at 9:05 AM. He thanked retiring councilors Jan Aikins, Bonnie Dorr, Eric Horvitz, and Stuart Russell for their three years of service on the Council. He then announced the four newly elected Councilors—Rina Dechter, Craig Boutilier, Richard Doyle, and David Poole—who began their terms of office after the Annual Meeting on August 2.

Standing Committee Reports

Conference. Paul Rosenbloom, the AAAI Conference Committee Chair, reported that attendance at the national conference was slightly up from 1999 when AAAI competed with IJCAI. However, it did not meet the level of 1998 when there were several collocated conferences. Tutorial participation continued to grow—up 33 percent from 1999 and double the participation in 1998. This is because there is no

longer a separate charge for the tutorials. Workshop participation remained fairly constant. A large influx of high school students was expected to participate in the finals of the national Botball championships. Participants almost doubled this year. Paul then turned the report over to Henry Kautz, AAAI-2000 program cochair; Rina Dechter, AAAI-02 cochair; and Haym Hirsh, program cochair for IAAI-2000.

Henry Kautz reported that the conference structure remained approximately the same as that of recent years, with one new program, the technical paper poster session. This event will be held on the first night of the technical program and will serve as somewhat of an experiment for a much more ambitious restructuring in 2002. Rina Dechter submitted a proposal to the council to completely revamp the technical portion of the conference in 2002. She proposed that paper presentation sessions be replaced with one plenary session and poster sessions. Only a select group of papers with broad appeal will be presented in the plenary session, which will also include a series of invited talks. All other papers will be presented in daily poster sessions, organized by topics. Dechter emphasized that the submission, review, and acceptance procedures and policies will not change at all. In addition, all technical papers will be given equal weight in the proceedings. There was some concern about the scheduling of the poster sessions, which might conflict with long-standing evening events. In addition, it was unclear whether authors would be granted travel for poster presentations. However, the council agreed that these potential problems could probably be worked out. The proposal was approved as an experiment for AAAI-02 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Finance. Secretary-Treasurer Norm Nielsen reported that all cost centers are reporting as expected, with some breaking even and others supported through AAAI grants. The association is using investment income and gains to offset some operating expenses and all grant programs. Despite large withdrawals from investment accounts, the operating reserve continued to

grow at the rate of 10 percent in 1999. Nielsen reported that he was making every attempt to conform to the AAAI financial policy of keeping investments split at two-thirds equity and one-third fixed income. This is not always practical in the current market, but he assured the council that he will make adjustments at appropriate intervals. This also applied to the need to keep the equity portion of the portfolio split between growth and value stocks. Depending on the market, it is not uncommon for one group of stocks to outperform the other, thereby throwing percentages off.

To reduce the need for AAAI subsidy of conference events, it was suggested that the Conference Committee add an ongoing position with a term of three years that will be responsible for fundraising. Paul Rosenbloom agreed to conduct a search for this individual.

The Executive Council expressed some concern about the prospects of the AAAI office being able to remain in Menlo Park because of the skyrocketing real estate market in the San Francisco Bay Area. Carol Hamilton, Executive Director of AAAI, agreed to initiate discussions with the AAAI building landlord this fall rather than wait until 2001. The AAAI lease expires in March 2002.

Fellows. Dave Waltz reported that six new fellows had been elected in 2000: Kenneth Ford, UWF / Institute for Human & Machine Cognition; W. Eric L. Grimson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Leslie Pack Kaelbling, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; David Poole, University of British Columbia; Jonathan Schaeffer, University of Alberta; and Bart Selman, Cornell University. These six individuals were honored at a dinner in Austin during the conference.

As part of an ongoing discussion about how to better identify and honor individuals worthy of fellows status, two new proposals were considered for fellows selection guidelines. In 1999, the guidelines were modified to allow as many as 10 new fellows per year. The first new proposal, submitted by Stuart Russell, addressed the membership criterion for fellows status. In addition to allowing individuals who have been members of AAAI for the

past three consecutive years to be selected as fellows, it proposed that this be expanded to allow current life members or three- and five-year members to be considered for selection, as long as the life, three-year, or five-year membership is activated prior to nomination. The Council approved the proposal to modify the guidelines to state that current life members of AAAI are eligible to be nominated for AAAI Fellow but did not include the provision for three- and five-year members unless these memberships conform to the current three-year rule. A second proposal, submitted by Graeme Hirst, suggested that the percentage of new Fellows selected be raised to between 1 percent and .5 percent each year. This proposal was not approved.

Grants and Scholarships. Jan Aikins, the AAAI Grants Chair, reported that she will be stepping down as Grants Chair this year as she rotates off the Council. Bruce Buchanan asked for volunteers from the councilors present for a new Grants Chair. Manuela Veloso graciously offered to accept this position. Her term of three years begins after the Annual Business meeting on Wednesday, August 2.

Aikins reported that there was no new unusual grant activity for AAAI during the past 12 months. There was a total of \$271,378 in grants paid out since August 1, 1999. Another \$207,000 is budgeted for the remainder of the 2000 fiscal year. Of the total, approximately \$160,000 is used to subsidize national conference programs, such as the Tutorial Forum, Robot Programs, Doctoral Consortium, and Intelligent Systems Demonstrations. The amount of \$55,000 is slated for independent conference and workshops; \$42,500 for the AAAI Awards and Fellows Programs; \$56,000 for miscellaneous grants; \$164,000 for student scholarships to AAAI conference and symposium events; and \$20,000 for Women and Minority grants. Veloso agreed to compose a Call for Papers to try to identify existing programs benefiting women and minorities that AAAI might target for support.

Aikins reported that AAAI awarded 103 student scholarships for the national conference, totaling a little

more than \$62,000. Student scholarships were also granted for the symposium series, robot competition, and Botball participants, bringing the overall total between August 1999 and July 2000 to almost \$126,000.

Publications. Publications Committee Chair and AAAI Press Editor Ken Ford reported that one of the current primary activities of the Publications Committee is to review the policies regarding electronic publication on a periodic basis. The current policy regarding release of electronic materials stipulates that they should be accessible to members only, except for back issues of the *AI Magazine*. After reviewing the policies of other organizations and the financial ramifications of release to a wider audience, the Publications Committee did not make any recommendation for change in this policy. However, they will continue to monitor this policy as electronic publishing activities grow.

AAAI members can now access the proceedings papers from 1980–1999. The 2000 papers will be posted later this year or in 2001. Most *AI Magazine* issues back to 1980 are also available online. All but the most recent volume are available to nonmembers as well. A massive project over the past year to create the AAAI Library section of the web for members has resulted in the addition of an abstract and a full-text file for each article.

Ford also requested help in soliciting proposals for new AAAI books. The AAAI Press is seeking a balanced list of books that are important to the AI community. Although several titles have done well financially, the press does not limit selections to only those that will be popular. Sometimes an important book might not sell particularly well.

David Leake reported that the newly formed *AI Magazine* Editorial Board hopes to target issues that would be of interest to the membership and solicit articles on those topics. He might try to contact the members directly through e-mail or through the members-only web site for input. He also reported that the magazine has two new editors: B. Chandrasekaran of Ohio State University is the Book Review Editor and Robert Morris of

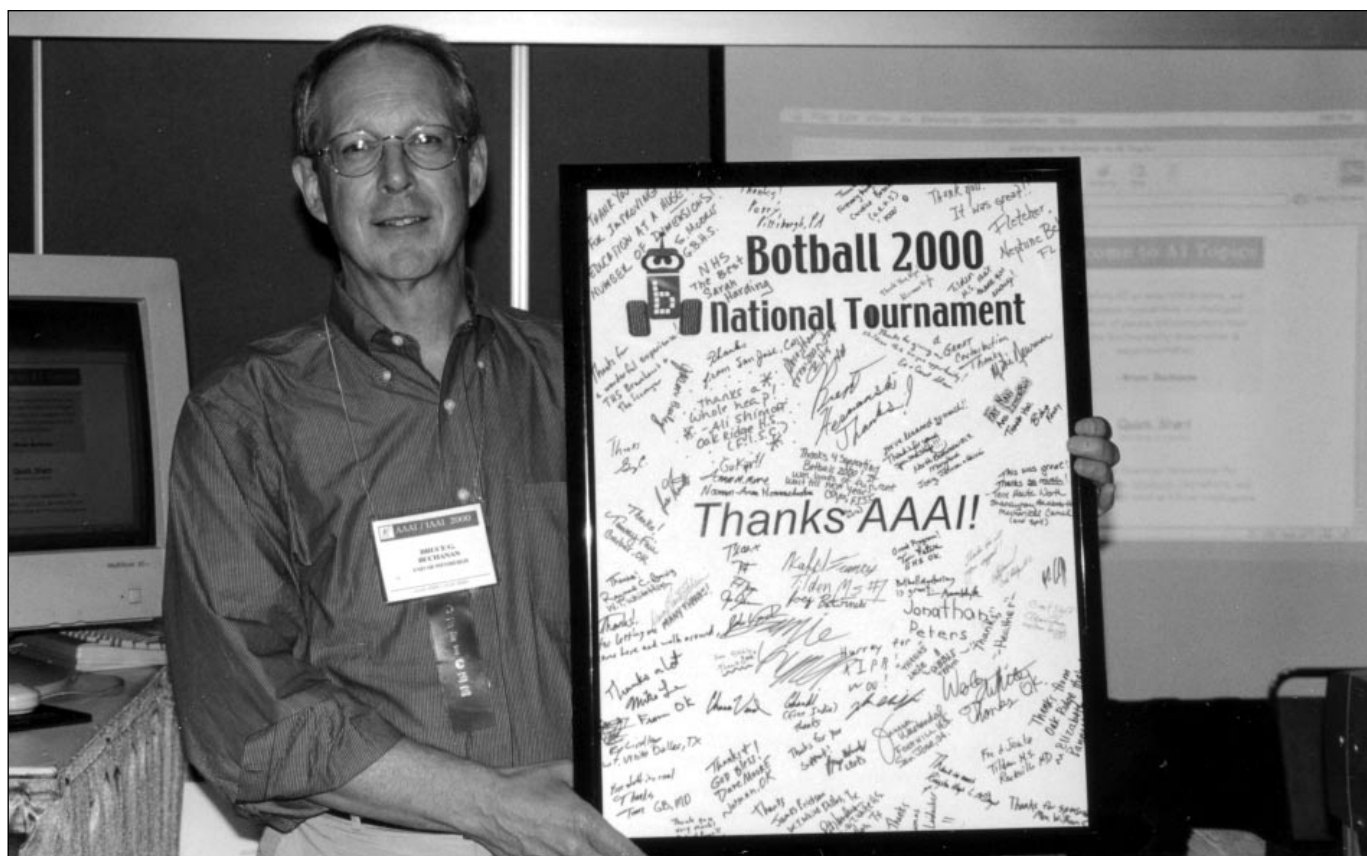
NASA Ames Research Center is the Reports Editor. Leake has been successful in attracting high-quality articles, and the editorial content is in place for at least the next two issues.

Membership. Bruce Buchanan reported that he had decided to reactivate this committee because of the static state of the membership. He recommended Reid Simmons to chair the committee, and this recommendation was approved by the Council. Simmons solicited help in identifying ways to build the membership numbers. He hopes to explore ways of forming affiliate memberships with other societies. Stuart Russell offered to contact Machine Learning about a possible affiliation. Simmons solicited additional help to contact other area societies or conferences. He will also study trends in membership to see where the attrition is occurring.

Symposium. Carol Hamilton reported that the Symposium Committee is still seeking an Executive Council representative. Interested councilors should contact Bruce Buchanan or Hamilton for more information about this position. The 1999 Fall Symposium attracted 214 attendees. This was only slightly down from 1998, despite the fact that there were three less symposia. The 2000 Spring Symposium had a lower overall attendance as well because of one less symposium, but participation per symposium remained constant. The 2000 Fall Symposium Series will feature five symposia and will be held for the second year at the Sea Crest Conference Center on Cape Cod. The 2001 Spring Symposium Series will include seven symposia and will be held at Stanford University. The Symposium Committee has made a concerted effort to try to bring the number of symposia per series back up to previous levels, although this is an uphill battle. Efforts are under way to find an alternate site for the Fall Symposium, but no suitable venue has been identified as yet.

Other Business

CRA Report. Tim Finin reported that the CRA is encouraging their members to write to their congressional representatives about funding issues. He also reported that the CRA Outstanding



AAAI President Bruce Buchanan Displays the Botball 2000 Thank-You Card Signed by Tournament Participants.

Student Awards would be presented at the AAAI national conference later that week. He recommended that the award recipients be given complimentary memberships in AAAI, which the Council heartily endorsed. Tim told the Council that if they knew of an organization that should be a member of the CRA to please let him know.

Government Relations. Jim Hendler reported that the current budget proposal recommends a 25 percent cut in funding research for science and technology. He also reported that there is a desperate need in government for representatives from the AI community, particularly in agencies like DARPA. AAAI will send a thank you note to Dave Gunning, who is leaving DARPA, for his service to the community.

Awards. Dave Waltz announced that the recipients of the three AAAI Special Awards are Judea Pearl, Classic Paper Award (1982); Daniel Bobrow, Distinguished Service Award; and James Hendler, Effective Expository Writing Award. Waltz mentioned that he would like to see more nominations

for the awards, especially the Expository Writing Award. He would also like to expand the awards to include a Best Student Paper Award. This would have to be under the auspices of the program cochair and would probably only include a travel grant to the conference and a certificate rather than a cash award. He would also consider adding a Dissertation Award if he is able to find committee members. This award would require a more labor-intensive review process. The standard \$2500 award would be granted for such an award.

Waltz also reported that AAAI granted 15 awards at the Intel Science & Engineering Fair to recognize outstanding achievement in the area of intelligent computation and robotics. The awards are intended for the best exhibits in the area of computer science with an AI component. Fifteen \$1000 awards were presented. There were 17 student winners because two projects were coauthored. Award winners and their schools also receive complimentary one-year member-

ships in AAAI, including receipt of the *AI Magazine*, a certificate, and a AAAI pin. The Council thanked Mel Montemerlo for his ongoing efforts in organizing the judging and awards presentation at the science fair. Judges in 2000 included John Laird, Peter Friedland, Tom Gruber, David Atkinson, and Mel Montemerlo.

Carol Hamilton announced that ACM has agreed to modify the name of the Allen Newell Award to the ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award. AAAI provides the sole support for this annual award of \$10,000. The award is administered by ACM.

PATHFINDER. Bruce Buchanan reported that the PATHFINDER is now being organized by Jon Glick. The site has expanded and will soon include the Wellspring Initiative, an online repository for AI archival items, such as lab notes, correspondence, photos, recollections, or anecdotes. This is a departure from the scope of the PATHFINDER, which includes references to published works. Buchanan also announced an initiative to coordinate

several physical archival sites for AI papers, notes, and photos. Interest has been expressed by both the Stanford University library and Carnegie Mellon University.

AI Exploratorium. In the fall of 1999, AAAI granted the AI Exploratorium, spearheaded by Russell Greiner and Jonathan Schaeffer, \$20,000 to develop a few demos. Some of the results of their work were available for review on the exhibit floor as part of the Intelligent Systems Demonstration Program. Greiner and Schaeffer encouraged Council members to stop by their booth and provide feedback on their initial efforts. A follow-up report and funding request will be available sometime next year.

AAAI-02 Update. Prospects for collocated conferences in 2002 are looking very good, thanks to the efforts of Russell Greiner and other members of the local AI group in Edmonton. Interested conferences include Computational Linguistics (ACL), Automated Deduction (CADE), Computational Learning Theory (COLT), Computational Biology, CSCSI (Canadian AI Society), Machine Learning (ICML), Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD), Uncertainty in AI (UAI), and the Third Biennial Game Programmers Workshop. Carol Hamilton reported that she has already held space at the headquarters hotel for KDD-02.

IJCAI-01/IJCAI-03 Update. Planning for IJCAI-01 is well under way. Collocation of several ongoing AAAI events has been approved, including IAAI, the Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, Botball, and the SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Consortium. Carol Hamilton is working with the Conference Committee and Local Arrangements Committee to complete the promotional pieces and complete other preliminary arrangements. AAAI is implementing a new electronic submission software system at the request of the IJCAI program chair. This system will be tested out in the fall with the Agents'01 conference.

The IJCAI Board of Trustees approved the location of IJCAI-03 in Acapulco, Mexico. Carol Hamilton has already begun coordinating with the IJCAI-03 Conference Chair and the

Local Arrangements Chair to define AAAI's role in the 2003 conference. It is anticipated that it will be the same as that in other North American IJCAI years. There will be no AAAI national conference in 2003.

Release of Conference Submission Data. At the request of a AAAI member, the Executive Council adopted a formal policy regarding the release of electronic title-page submission information for research purposes. The following wording was adopted with the provision that the author must be forced to approve or disapprove the policy by selecting a box on the electronic submission web site. The policy states: "AAAI is committed to encouraging the pursuit of AI research and development. As part of this commitment, AAAI is willing to make available, with author's prior approval, the anonymous electronic title page information collected at the time of national conference paper submissions. Release of information will be restricted to code, title, abstract, key words, and other anonymous information. No author, affiliation, address, or other contact information will be released. Information will only be released to AAAI individual members, who have submitted a proposal for research that could further the objectives of AAAI in some way. Review of the proposal will be conducted by the appropriate committee of the AAAI Executive Council. The researcher will be required to sign a statement of restricted use and privacy."

AI Journal Proposal. Bruce Buchanan reported that he hopes to establish an agreement with Elsevier Science Publishers that will allow AAAI members access to the online version of *AI Journal*. Negotiations will hopefully be completed this fall, and the Council will be polled regarding any financial implications. Buchanan also reported that should Elsevier ever be interested in spinning off the *AI Journal*, the current Executive Committee supports AAAI making a bid to assume the publishing of this journal.

Summer School. Stuart Russell provided an update on his plans for an AI summer school in the summer of 2001. He hopes to conduct three courses just prior to IJCAI in the Seat-

tle area. He anticipates 60 students and 12 lecturers at an approximate cost of \$60,000. He is still seeking an appropriate space for the event. He is also seeking funding for the sessions.

AIPS Support. AIPS is seeking support from AAAI to hold its funds in a bank account between conferences. Normally, AAAI would only provide this service for conferences that have affiliation status with AAAI. AIPS might not want to establish this status with AAAI. Carol Hamilton will work with AIPS to find some workable agreement, which will be signed by both organizations.

AAAI Name Change. The Council has been exploring the idea of a name change for AAAI for about a year. It was generally agreed that a name change will not be sufficient to accomplish the goals originally intended by the name change. A significant restructuring of the organization to have a more international representation would have to be done to make the name change meaningful. This restructuring would make a noticeable difference in the overall operations of the association. Several alternatives were suggested including increased cooperation between international societies or expanding to all North America only. Neither of these options addresses the fact that AAAI's membership is almost 40 percent international and that AAAI seeks affiliation with numerous international societies and conferences. Barbara Grosz agreed to lead a task force to determine the best way to achieve the goals underlying the name change, such as a federation between AI societies. She and the members of her committee will contact other large AI societies throughout the world to gather feedback on how to achieve these goals.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.