

AAAI News

*Summer News from the
American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

AI Alert Newsletter

Many of you have been receiving the *AI Alert* newsletter, which highlights selected features from the "AI in the News" section of the AAAI Pathfinder/AI Topics web pages. If you are a member of AAAI and would like to begin receiving this newsletter, along with other AAAI announcements, please subscribe to our AAAI membership list server by sending e-mail to majordomo@aaai.org with the following text in the *body* of the message: subscribe aaai-members. Be sure to visit the AI Topics web site at www.aaai.org/AITopics/aitopics.html

AAAI Executive Council Nominations

Each year four new councilors are elected to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate eight candidates for councilor in the spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI members will vote in the late spring of 2004.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; by fax to 650-321-4457; or by e-mail to hamilton@aaai.org. Nomi-

nators should contact candidates prior to submitting their names to verify that they are willing to serve, should they be elected. The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2003.

2004 Spring Symposium Series

The 2004 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 22–24, 2004 at Stanford University. The Call for Participation will be available in July on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/symposia.html) and will be mailed to all AAAI members. Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 3, 2003. The tentative list of topics is as follows:

- Architectures for Modeling Emotion: Cross-Disciplinary Foundations. *Cochairs:* Eva Hudlicka (eva_hud@earthlink.net) and Lola Canamero (L.Canamero@herts.ac.uk).
- Bridging the Multiagent and Multi-robotic Research Gap. *Organizing Committee:* Charlie Ortiz (ortiz@ai.sri.com), Lynne E. Parker (parker@cs.utk.edu), Gaurav Sukhatme (gaurav@pollux.usc.edu), and Milind Tambe (tambe@usc.edu)
- Exploring Attitude and Affect in Text: Theories and Applications. *Cochairs:* Yan Qu (yqu@clairvoyancecorp.com), Jimi Shanahan (jimi@clairvoyancecorp.com), and Janyce Wiebe (wiebe@cs.pitt.edu)
- Interaction between Humans and Autonomous Systems over Extended Operation. *Cochairs:* James Gundersen (gunders@acm.org) and Cheryl Martin (cmartin@traclabs.com)
- Knowledge Representation and Ontology for Autonomous Sys-

tems. *Cochairs:* Craig Schlenoff (craig.schlenoff@nist.gov) and Michael Uschold (michael.f.uschold@boeing.com)

- Language Learning: An Interdisciplinary Perspective. *Organizing Committee:* Paul Cohen (cohen@cs.umass.edu), Ed Hovy (hovy@isi.edu), Tim Oates (oates@csee.um-bc.edu), Michael Witbrock (witbrock@cyc.com), and Andy Clark (andy@indiana.edu)
- Semantic Web Services. *Chair:* Terry Payne (trp@ecs.soton.ac.uk)
- Robotics and Education (title to be announced). *Tentative Organizing Committee:* Lloyd Greenwald (lgreenwa@cs.drexel.edu), Zachary Dodds (dodds@cs.hmc.edu), Jerry Weinbert (jweinbe@siue.edu), and Sheila Tejada (sheila@cs.uno.edu)

AAAI-04 / IAAI-04

Please mark your calendars now for the Nineteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-04) and the Sixteenth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-04)! The conferences will be held July 25–29, 2004 in San Jose, California. Program Co-chairs for 2004 are Deborah McGuinness, Stanford University, and George Ferguson, University of Rochester. The IAAI-04 Conference Chair is Randall Hill, Institute for Creative Technologies, University of Southern California. The Calls for Papers for both conferences will be posted on the AAAI web site in July, and will be mailed to all AAAI members this summer. For more information about AAAI-04 and IAAI-04, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/conferences.html or write to ncai@aaai.org.

AAAI Member News

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Robert S. Englemore, Editor Emeritus of *AI Magazine* and AAAI Fellow. Bob worked in some capacity for AAAI over the past 20 years, serving on the Executive Council, the IAAI Program Committee (Chair, 2000), the Office Committee, the Publications Committee (Chair,

1993–1997) and the National Conference Program Committee. His service to AAAI was extraordinary and he will be deeply missed. A special memorial about Bob is in this issue.

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence will be held at 12:45 PM, Wednesday, August 13, 2003 in the Acapulco Convention Center in Acapulco, Mexico.

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council Meeting was held March 23, 2003, in Palo Alto, California. Attending were Tom Mitchell, Ron Brachman, Bruce Buchanan, Richard Doyle, Tim Finin, Craig Knoblock, Daphne Koller, Maja Mataric, Deborah McGuinness, Peter Norvig, Ted Senator, Yoav Shoham, Manuela Veloso, David Waltz, Carol Hamilton, and Mike Hamilton.

The Executive Council suspended normal business for most of the meeting in order to begin a brainstorming session about AAAI's current and future focus. This process will continue during the coming year, and the findings will be published in this column. In the final hour of the meeting, the Council discussed the following items of business.

Secretary-Treasurer

After unanimous confirmation by the Executive Council, both during the meeting and by e-mail after the meeting, Ted Senator was installed as the new Secretary-Treasurer of AAAI, replacing Norman Nielsen, who passed away in December.

Botball 2003 and 2004

A proposal to fund the 2003 Botball Competition, which will be held in Norman, Oklahoma again this year, was discussed at length. Given AAAI's current financial status, the Council decided that we could no longer fund Botball at the same level as in 2002. The subsidy was reduced to \$20,000,

and is intended for student travel to the event.

A proposal from KISS Institute for Practical Robotics for AAAI to cosponsor the 2004 National Conference on Educational Robotics (NCER) and the Botball 2004 National Tournament was also considered. Steps toward expanding Botball into an educational conference have already taken place in 2002 and 2003. A full-blown conference would be collocated with AAAI-04/IAAI-04. AAAI would supply rooms and audio-visual for the conference and Botball tournament, as well as other financial support.

The Council had a two-fold recommendation on this proposal. First, they requested more information about other sources of funding, and wondered whether sufficient funding was available to sustain the conference if registrations did not meet expectations. The Council recommended a matching grant with a specific cap, pending more information about other Botball/NCER sponsors.

Trading Agent Competition

The Council voted to provide \$5,000 (the cost of internet access), exhibit floor space, and publicity for this event. The TAC decided to collocate with IJCAI-03 after encouragement from the Council to collocate with AAAI-04. The TAC is also holding a workshop through the IJCAI-03 workshop program.

Public Relations Plan

Tom Mitchell submitted a public relations plan, drafted by Sara Hedberg, that outlines AAAI's plan for 2003. In addition to its usual releases and press coordination at the national conference, AAAI hopes to launch an e-mail Press Bulletin and a Press Room on its web site. AAAI will also work to expand its current press contacts, and develop a list of AI experts who can respond to press inquiries.

AI Topics Sponsorship

Bruce Buchanan reported that he and Jon Glick hope to identify some outside sponsors for the AI Alert, sent every few weeks by e-mail to AAAI members. The Council approved this idea, with the recommendation that

a tasteful acknowledgment appear at the top of the e-mail message. A minimum sponsorship of \$15,000 was also recommended.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

AAAI Local Chapter Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the formation of its new Chapter Program! We are currently seeking applications from members, who wish to organize chapters in their communities. AAAI chapters should promote an increased knowledge of, and greater interest in, artificial intelligence by professionals in the field; increased communication among persons having an interest in AI; and greater awareness of artificial intelligence and its potential in the chapter's community at large.

For more information on AAAI Chapters, or for an application, please see www.aaai.org/Membership/membership-chapters.html or write to Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

AI Journal Online Access

AAAI is delighted to announce the continuation of its cooperative effort with *AI Journal*, giving unlimited access to the online version of the *Artificial Intelligence Journal* to all regular AAAI members. AAAI regular members can view and browse tables of contents, view articles published in recent issues of *AI Journal*, and use the current features available through Elsevier's electronic journal service. They may also view, print, and/or download excerpts of reasonable quantity, provided that the use of such excerpts is personal and does not amount to or result in commercial distribution. Participation in this program is included in your normal AAAI membership dues.

If you are a current regular member and have not received your Reader Key and Instructions for accessing the online *AI Journal*, please contact membership@aaai.org for more information.

Announcing

The Robert S. Engelmores Memorial Lecture

*Sponsored by the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference
and AI Magazine*

This annual keynote lecture will be presented at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI) conference in honor of Dr. Robert S. Engelmores's extraordinary service to AAAI, *AI Magazine*, and the AI applications community, as well as his contributions to applied AI. Bob's service was extraordinary both in the selfless and insightful manner in which it was conducted, and for its extensiveness, with weekly service for over ten years and consistent contributions in many capacities for another ten.

Bob was editor emeritus of *AI Magazine*, and an AAAI Fellow. He served on the AAAI Executive Council, the IAAI Program Committee (Chair, 2000), the AAAI Publications Committee (Chair, 1993 to 1997), the AAAI Office Committee, and the National Conference Program Committee. Bob had deep interests in both the technical and entrepreneurial aspects of AI. He was a DARPA program manager, and an executive director of the Heuristic Programming Project in Stanford's Computer Science Department. He was the author of many AI papers and a seminal book on blackboard systems. He was also a cofounder of Teknowledge, and an advisor to many AI startup companies.

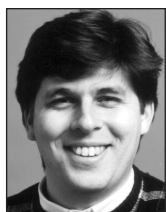
The memorial lecture topics will encompass Bob's wide interests in AI, and each lecture will be linked to a subsequent article, to be published upon approval by *AI Magazine*. The lecturer and, therefore, the author for the magazine article, will be chosen jointly by the IAAI program committee and the editor of *AI Magazine*. The Robert S. Engelmores Memorial Lecture includes a certificate from the IAAI conference, a \$1,000 honorarium, and funding for travel and expenses in accordance with AAAI policies.

AI magazine



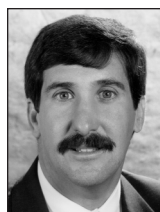
Congratulations to the 2003 AAAI Fellows!

Each year a small number of fellows are recognized for their unusual distinction in the profession and for their sustained contributions to the field for a decade or more. An official dinner and ceremony will be held in their honor at IJCAI-03 in Acapulco, Mexico.



Oren Etzioni
University of Washington

For significant contributions to the fields of software agents, web-based technology, and intelligent user interfaces.



Michael Pazzani
University of California, Irvine

For significant contributions to the development and understanding of machine learning algorithms and their relationship to human learning.



Scott E. Fahlman
*Carnegie Mellon University
& IBM Research*

For significant contributions to knowledge representation, artificial neural networks, AI-oriented software tools, and massively parallel architectures for AI.



Reid Simmons
Carnegie Mellon University

For significant contributions to mobile robot navigation, self-reliant autonomous systems, and the Task Control Architecture.



Michael Kearns
University of Pennsylvania

For significant contributions to computational learning theory, to reinforcement learning and stochastic planning, to dialogue agents, and to the theory of multi-agent systems.



Manuela Veloso
Carnegie Mellon University

For significant contributions to the development of planning and learning algorithms, and multiagent robot teams for uncertain dynamic environments.



Pradeep Khosla
Carnegie Mellon University

For significant contributions to automated modeling, reconfiguration, and design of robotic and real-time software systems, and for encouraging the field through professional leadership.

Call for Proposals

AAAI-04 Workshop Program

Nineteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence
July 25-29 San Jose, California

Sponsored by the American Association for Artificial Intelligence

The AAAI-04 Program Committee invites proposals for the Workshop Program of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence's Nineteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-04).

Workshops will be held at the beginning of the conference, July 25–26, 2004. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with a selected focus—providing an informal setting for active exchange among researchers, developers and users on topics of current interest. Members of all segments of the AI community are encouraged to submit proposals.

To foster interaction and exchange of ideas, the workshops will be kept small, with 25–50 participants. Attendance is limited to active participants only. The format of workshops will be determined by their organizers, who are encouraged to leave ample time for general discussion. Workshops will typically be one full day in length, although half-day and two-day proposals will be considered.

Proposal Content

Proposals for workshops should be about two (2) pages in length, and should contain:

- A description of the workshop topic. Identify the specific issues on which the workshop will focus.
- A brief discussion of why the topic is of particular interest at this time.
- A brief description of the proposed workshop format, regarding the mix of events such as paper presentations, invited talks, panels, and general discussion.
- An indication as to whether the workshop should be considered for a half-day, one or two-day meeting.
- The names and full contact information (e-mail and postal addresses, fax and telephone numbers) of the organizing committee—3 to 4 people knowledgeable in the field—and short descriptions of their relevant expertise. Strong proposals include organizers who bring differing perspectives to the workshop topic and who are actively connected to the communities of potential participants.
- A list of potential attendees.

Workshops are an excellent forum for exploring emerging approaches and task areas, for bridging the gaps between AI and other fields or between subfields of AI, for elucidating the results of exploratory research, or for critiquing existing approaches. Because workshops are intended for focused exploration of special topics, topics that are already the subject of regular meetings are not appropriate.

Workshop Organization

Workshop organizers will be responsible for:

- *Producing a call for participation.* The Call is due November 14, 2003. This Call will be mailed to AAAI members by AAAI and placed on the AAAI web site. Organizers are responsible for additional publicity such as distributing the Call to relevant newsgroups and electronic mailing lists, and especially to potential audiences from outside the AAAI community.
- *Selecting participants.* Workshop attendance is by invitation of the organizers. Selection of attendees will be made by the organizers on the basis of submissions due March 12, 2004. Workshop organizers will need to provide AAAI with a preliminary list of the participants by April 23, 2004.
- *Coordinating the production of the workshop notes.* AAAI provides a small budget to cover publication, mailing and administrative support. AAAI can reproduce and mail copies of the working notes if materials are received by May 25, 2004. Working notes may contain a collection of statements by participants or other relevant material, but are limited to a total of 200 pages.

Workshop organizers who want to publish the papers from their workshop (or significant portions of it) will have the opportunity to do so through the AAAI Press. The Press (which retains the right of first refusal to publish) will furnish details of its program to interested organizers and authors.

AAAI will provide logistic support, and meeting places for the workshops, and will determine the dates and times of the workshops. AAAI reserves the right to drop any workshop if the organizers miss the above deadlines. Workshops are not to be used as a vehicle for marketing products. All workshop participants must register for the AAAI-04 Technical Program.

Proposal Submission

Workshop proposals should be submitted as soon as possible and must be received no later than October 3, 2003. Email submissions in PDF format are preferred. Organizers will be notified of the committee's decision by October 27, 2003.

The Workshop Program is chaired by Milos Hauskrecht of the University of Pittsburgh and cochaired by Dieter Fox of the University of Washington. Please submit workshop proposals and address inquiries concerning workshops to:

Milos Hauskrecht
University of Pittsburgh Computer Science Department
5329 Sennott Square Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone: 412-624-8845 Fax: 412-624-8854
E-mail: milos@cs.pitt.edu / www.cs.pitt.edu/~milos/

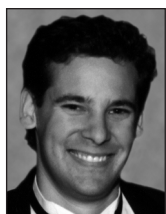


IAAI-03's Invited Talks in Acapulco, Mexico!

The Fifteenth Annual Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-2003) will highlight successful applications of AI technology; explore issues, methods, and lessons learned in the development and deployment of AI applications; and promote an interchange of ideas between basic and applied AI. This year's conference will take place August 12-14, 2003, in Acapulco, Mexico, collocated with the Eighteenth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-03). As usual, IAAI-2003 will consist of papers in two tracks: (1) deployed application case studies and (2) emerging applications, technology, and issues—supplemented by invited talks and panel discussions.

For registration information, please consult the IAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Conferences/IAAI/2003/iaai03.html, or call or fax AAAI (Telephone: 650-328-3123, Fax: 650-321-4457).

Invited Talks



Noah S. Friedland,
Vulcan, Inc.

Project Halo: Toward a Digital Aristotle

Vulcan Inc. has launched a multistaged effort toward the creation of a digital Aristotle, an application capable of answering and providing cogent explanations to arbitrary questions in an ever-growing number of domains. The pilot phase was a six-month effort intended to investigate the state of the art in question answering, with an emphasis on deep reasoning. Friedland's talk will discuss the Halo vision and methodology and provide an overview of the pilot phase and its challenge. Friedland will also outline a road map for future phases of their initiative.



Lawrence Hunter
*University of Colorado
Health Sciences Center*

AI and Molecular Biology: A Growing Success Story

Applications of artificial intelligence in molecular biology have long been scientifically important, and are now growing in industrial significance as well. In application areas as diverse as drug discovery and health care cost containment, AI techniques from machine learning, knowledge representation, and now natural language processing are becoming increasingly part of mainstream commercial practice. In this lecture, Hunter describes some current success stories and outlines the potential for growth.



Luis von Ahn
Carnegie Mellon University

CAPTCHA: Telling Humans and Computers Apart Automatically

A CAPTCHA is a program that can tell whether its user is a human or a computer. More specifically, a CAPTCHA is a program that can generate and grade tests that humans can pass but current computer programs cannot. CAPTCHAs have several applications in practical security and some results of this project are currently in use by Yahoo, Hotmail, and other major web sites. CAPTCHAs also provide concrete, well-defined challenges to the Artificial Intelligence community. Ahn describes the CAPTCHA project in detail and surveys the many issues related to AI.