

IJCAI-09 / IAAI-09

We hope you are planning to join us for the IJCAI and IAAI conferences in Pasadena, California, July 11–17, 2009. The IJCAI-09 technical program will kick off with an opening ceremony and reception on Monday, July 13. The reception will be held at the Caltech Athenaeum, where guests will be entertained by a homegrown Jet Propulsion Laboratories (JPL) jazz musical group. Both events have an outstanding program of invited presentations. Hal R. Varian (University of California, Berkeley and Google) will deliver his keynote address titled “Computer Mediated Transactions” on Tuesday morning, July 14. Additional talks will be presented throughout the week by Cristina Conati (University of British Columbia), Thomas G. Dietterich (Oregon State University), Luc Steels (Sony Computer Science Laboratory and University of Brussels), Gerhard Widmer (Johannes Kepler University Linz and Austrian Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence), and Qiang Yang (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology).

The IJCAI conference will also include lectures by the recipients of the IJCAI Computers and Thought Award and the Research Excellence Award. The two Computers and Thought Award lectures will be presented on Tuesday, July 14 by Carlos Guestrin (Carnegie Mellon University) and Andrew Ng (Stanford University). Victor Lesser (University of Massachusetts Amherst) will present his Research Excellence lecture on Thursday, July 16.

William Swartout, Director of Technology for USC’s Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT), and the 2009 recipient of the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award will deliver a talk that promises to be a highlight of the IAAI conference. The IAAI-09 program will also feature talks by Luis von Ahn (Carnegie Mellon University) titled “Human Computation” and Stephen Wolfram (Wolfram Research), whose talk is titled “Computational Knowledge, Science and Wolfram|Alpha.”

The IJCAI-09 technical program will include 331 oral presentations, while the IAAI-09 technical program will

feature talks on four award-winning deployed AI applications and 28 emerging applications. The week is filled with a host of other programs, including the AI Video Competition, the AI Poker Competition, the Mobile Robot Exhibition and Workshop, the Trading Agents Competition, and a very extensive tutorial and workshop program. IJCAI-09 will also include a special Industry Day—a one-day session on Friday, July 17—structured around a panel and a series of industry presentations. Special lab tours of JPL, the University of Southern California’s Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT) and Information Sciences Institute (ISI), and the University of Southern California Robotics Lab are also being organized. Please also check out the large number of colocated conferences and events listed at ijcai-09.org.

Registration for the two conferences is included in one joint fee. Conference attendees may also opt to purchase a ticket to the IJCAI-09 Banquet, to be held at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. For complete conference program and registration information, please visit ijcai-09.org and www.aaai.org/iaai09. We hope to see you in Pasadena!

The Fifth AAAI Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-09)

Please join us for AIIDE-09, to be held October 14–16, 2009 at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. AIIDE

AAAI News

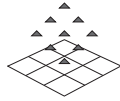
Summer News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

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. The program will include a research track, industry track, invited speakers, demos, and more. Registration information and other program details will be available on the AIIDE-09 website at www.aaai.org/aiide09 later this summer. Please send inquiries to aiide09@aaai.org or to Conference Chair Chris Darken (Naval Postgraduate School).

Join Us for AAAI-10 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA!

Please mark your calendars now for the Twenty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-10) and the Twenty-Second Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-10)! The conferences will be held July 11–15, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Calls for Papers for both conferences, as well as tutorial proposals, workshop proposals, and other affiliated programs will be available on the AAAI-10 and IAAI-10 websites in the coming months. Please see www.aaai.org/aaai10 for further information, or write to aaai10@aaai.org.



AAAI 2010 Spring Symposium Series

The 2010 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 22–24, 2010 at Stanford University. The call for participation will be available in August on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss10.php). Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 2, 2009. For more information, please contact the symposium chair, Marjorie Skubic, at skubicm@missouri.edu or AAAI at sss09@aaai.org. A preliminary list of symposia will be available at the SSS-10 website in July.

Executive Council Nominations

Every 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 2010.

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 1-650-321-4457; or by e-mail to hamilton@aaai.org. 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 November 1, 2009.

Support AAAI Open Access

AAAI would like to thank you for your ongoing support of the open access initiative and all AAAI programs

through the continuation of your AAAI membership. We count on you to help us deliver the latest information about artificial intelligence to the scientific community. To enable us to continue this effort, we invite you to consider an additional gift to AAAI. For information on how you can contribute to the open access initiative, please see www.aaai.org and click on "Gifts."

AAAI Member News

Tambe and Kraus Commended by City of Los Angeles for ARMOR System

The Los Angeles World Airport Police gave special commendations from the city of Los Angeles to the University of Southern California (USC) Viterbi School of Engineering creators of the ARMOR security scheduling system, and to the two officers who put it to effective day-to-day use. AAAI Fellows Milind Tambe (USC) and Sarit Kraus (Bar-Ilan University) were among those honored. They were recognized for their roles in performing "an exceptional service to the Airport police Division, the Los Angeles World Airports and the city of Los Angeles." and for the facilitation of a "critical link between the laboratory and the operational world." The assistant for randomized monitoring over routes sys-

tem (ARMOR), funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE) at USC aims to keep wrongdoers from being able to predict airport security operations by systematically randomizing them, using an algorithm adopted from game theory. The system was first put into trial use by USC police and subsequently brought to the attention of LAX law enforcement. ARMOR has been in use at LAX since 2007, first experimentally, now as a tested daily tool, and has been credited with numerous arrests for illegal firearms and narcotics.

ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award Honors Grosz and Halpern

AAAI is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award. The award is presented annually to an individual or individuals whose career contributions display breadth within computer science, or bridge computer science and other disciplines. This year, there are two recipients of this prestigious award. Barbara J. Grosz, Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Dean, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, is being honored for her fundamental contributions to research in natural language processing and in multiagent systems, for her leadership in the field of artificial intelligence, and for her role in the establishment and leadership of interdisciplinary institutions. Joseph Y. Halpern, Cornell University, is also being honored for his fundamental advances in reasoning about knowledge, belief, and uncertainty and their groundbreaking applications in artificial intelligence, computer science, game theory, economics, and the philosophy of science. The award, which is cosponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and AAAI, comes with a cash prize of \$10,000. Recipients will be honored at the ACM Awards Banquet in San Diego in June.

Veloso Receives 2009 ACM / SIGART Autonomous Agents Research Award

AAAI congratulates Manuela Veloso

(Carnegie Mellon University) on her selection as the 2009 recipient of the *ACM/SIGART Autonomous Agents Research Award*. This award is intended to recognize researchers in autonomous agents whose current work is an important influence on the field. Veloso is being recognized for her significant and sustained contributions to autonomous agents and multiagent systems in the areas of planning and control learning in multiagent systems. Her research is particularly noteworthy for its focus on the effective construction of teams of robot agents where cognition, perception, and action are seamlessly integrated to address planning, execution, and learning tasks. Her impact and visibility has been consistently high over the past two decades for her technical contributions, for her impressive robot teams, and for her leadership within the research community

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council meeting was held July 14, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. *Attending:* Eric Horvitz, David Aha, Cynthia Breazeal, Bruce Buchanan, Claire Cardie, Anthony Cohn, Yolanda Gil, Maria Gini, Amy Greenwald, Barbara Grosz, Gal Kaminka, David Leake, Alan Mackworth, Sheila McIlraith, David Musliner, Michael Pazzani, Martha Pollack, Tuomas Sandholm, Ted Senator, David E. Smith, Reid Smith, Rich Sutton, Holly Yanco, and Carol Hamilton.

Not Attending: Kevin Knight, Peter Stone, Sebastian Thrun, Marie desJardins.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by AAAI president Eric Horvitz. Horvitz formally thanked retiring councilors Maria Gini, Kevin Knight, Peter Stone, and Sebastian Thrun for their service on the Executive Council during the past three years, and welcomed newly elected councilors Claire Cardie, Amy Greenwald, Gal Kaminka, and Tuomas Sandholm. Introductions were made by other members of the Executive Council, and the minutes of the previous meeting in March 2008, which had been circulated for review prior

AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The 2009 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 5–7, at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The Symposium Series will be preceded on Wednesday, November 4 by a one-day AI funding seminar. The titles of the seven symposia are as follows:

Biologically Inspired Cognitive Architectures

Alexei Samsonovich, Chair (KIAS, George Mason University) (binf.gmu.edu/~asamsono/bica)

Cognitive and Metacognitive Educational Systems

Roberto Pirrone (University of Palermo, Italy) and Roger Azevedo (University of Memphis) (www.dinfo.unipa.it/mces2009)

Complex Adaptive Systems and the Threshold Effect: Views from the Natural and Social Sciences

Mirsad Hadzikadic and Ted Carmichael (University of North Carolina Charlotte) (sites.google.com/site/complexadaptivesystems)

Manifold Learning and Its Applications

Richard Souvenir, Chair (University of North Carolina at Charlotte) (odin.uncc.edu/aaai-manifold)

Multirepresentational Architectures for Human-Level Intelligence

Unmesh Kurup, Chair (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA) (diagrams.ukurup.com/hybrid)

The Uses of Computational Argumentation

Simon Parsons, Chair (Brooklyn College, City University of New York) (www.sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~parsons/events/uses)

Virtual Healthcare Interaction

Nancy Green (University of North Carolina Greensboro) and Donia Scott (Open University) (www.uncg.edu/~nlgreen/aaafss09/VHI-09.html)

Symposia will be limited to between forty and sixty participants each. In addition to invited participants, a limited number of other interested parties will be able to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. Complete registration and hotel information will be available in August at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss09.php. Invited participants must register by September 18, and the final registration deadline is October 16. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Westin is October 4, 2009. The discounted room rate of \$189.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date. Contact information for the Westin will be included in the registration materials.

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence will be held at 12:45 PM, Wednesday, July 15, 2009 in the Pasadena Convention Center, Pasadena, California, USA.

to the meeting, were formally approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance. Secretary Treasurer Ted Senator confirmed that the final paperwork for transferring AAAI investments to Vanguard was being finalized within the next month. He noted that our current manager had been given an opportunity to lower their fees, but was not able to match the options available at Vanguard. This transfer will save AAAI approximately 50 basis points. Concurrent with the transfer, the portfolio was rebalanced from a 42 percent (over)weighting in bonds to our target of 35 percent bonds and 65 percent equities. Additional equity asset classes, namely small capitalization and non-US, are being gradually added into the investment mix proportionally to their market capitalizations over the next year in conjunction with quarterly rebalancings. Senator noted that our deficit is still high, and is unsustainable at the current level, especially in the weakening economy.

Awards/Fellows/Nominating. Past president Alan Mackworth, who serves as chair of all three of these committees, noted that the Awards Committee had awarded the 2008 Classic Paper Award to Steven Minton, Mark D. Johnston, Andrew B. Philips, and Philip Laird for their 1990 AAAI paper, *Solving Large-Scale Constraint Satisfaction and Scheduling Problems Using a Heuristic Repair*; honorable mention was given to Pattie Maes and Rodney A. Brooks for *Learning to Coordinate Behaviors*. Ron Brachman will receive the 2008 AAAI Distinguished Award for his contributions to the field of artificial intelligence through sustained service in numerous leadership roles in industry, government and professional societies, tirelessly instigating, facilitating and promoting successful AI research and development.

Several other conference-related awards, not under the purview of the Awards Committee will also be given at the conference, including those for outstanding papers at AAAI or deployed papers at IAAI, outstanding program committee members, and various conference competition awards for robots, videos, poker, and

general game playing. The 2008 Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award will be presented to Kenneth M. Ford (Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition) for his leadership in AI science and technology through establishing and guiding AI research centers and programs, pioneering contributions to areas such as human-centered computing, and advancement of AI as a scientific endeavor and enabler for society's goals.

AAAI also awarded \$5,000 to ten students at the annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in May 2008. The Council thanked the 2008 judges for this program, including Reid Simmons, Dave Kortenkamp, Dave Musliner, Janet Kolodner, and Tucker Balch, for their efforts.

Mackworth noted that the Fellows Selection Committee selected eight new fellows for 2008, including Yoav S. Freund (University of California, San Diego), Maria L. Gini (University of Minnesota), Lydia E. Kavradi (Rice University), Tuomas W. Sandholm (Carnegie Mellon University), Peter van Beek (University of Waterloo), Toby Walsh (University of New South Wales), Brian C. Williams (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and Michael John Wooldridge (University of Liverpool). The new Fellows were honored at a dinner at AAAI-08.

Mackworth thanked the new councilors for their willingness to serve, as well as the retiring councilors for their past service and participation on the 2008 Nominating Committee. Mackworth also suggested that the Council review the responsibilities of the past president, which currently include serving as chair of these three committees, as well as the Executive Committee and the Strategic Planning Board (and Working Group in 2008).

Conference Outreach. Carol Hamilton reported that 30–35 conferences were invited to cooperate with AAAI in the fall of 2007. Many of these affiliations were being renewed from the previous year. FLAIRS, ICAPS, and KR continued their affiliate status with AAAI, and 17 conferences elected cooperation status. This number was somewhat down from 2007, in part due to biennial conference schedules. The Council agreed that this program is an

excellent way to increase the visibility of AAAI and encourage membership. Hamilton asked councilors to please send names of conferences that would be appropriate for AAAI cooperation. The Conference Outreach Committee chair Peter Stone is rotating off the Council, and new chair for this committee is being sought. (*Ed:* Sheila McIlraith is the new chair.)

Membership. Membership chair Holly Yanco reported that memberships have remained fairly stable during the past year, but that the committee has brainstormed several ideas to try and increase membership. These include inserting a donation line on the AAAI membership form, and launching a campaign to encourage members to recruit a “buddy” to join. Another suggestion was made to establish a presence for AAAI on one of the social networking sites, such as Facebook. Mike Pazzani agreed to follow up with Eric Horvitz on this idea.

Development. David Musliner, AAAI Development Committee chair, noted that sponsorships for the AAAI conference were slightly up in 2008. However, while the overall figure was \$119,635, only \$50,000 was unrestricted. The goal is to at least double unrestricted donations. Currently, sponsorships are solicited in two ways: centrally by the Development Committee and the executive director, and independently by chairs of individual programs, such as the Doctoral Consortium or Video Competition. In addition, AAAI receives funds to help support its other conferences, including AIIDE and ICWSM. These are generally secured by the chairs of these conferences. Several suggestions were made for building unrestricted funds including soliciting donations from members and life members, forming a group to make phone solicitations, hiring a professional development firm, and establishing a mechanism for people interested in estate planning. It was agreed that a future model for development should encompass more than just conference sponsorships, and should seek to engage long-term affiliations between AAAI and its corporate sponsors.

Publications. Publications chair David Leake reported that the fall issue of the

Save the Date! August 7–11, 2011

For the very first time, the AAAI conference will come to the City by the Bay, just in time to celebrate its 25th anniversary in San Francisco! The Twenty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-11) and the Twenty-Third Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-11) will be held in San Francisco at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, August 7–11, 2011. Please mark your calendars, and visit www.aaai.org/aaai11 for updates later this year!

AI Magazine will be a special issue on AI and Networks, edited by Marie desJardins, Matthew Gaston, and Dragomir Radev. He also noted that the first iteration of the AI Poster was included with the summer issue and was handed out in the IJCAI-09 registration packets. Due to a problem with the insertion of the poster magazine, the printer has agreed to print and insert the poster again in the fall issue at no cost. This insertion will include recent improvements and updates to the poster, which is intended to raise awareness of AI and attract people to AI web resources. It is hoped that the poster will be put into a second life via an interactive web version. The poster project is supported by the National Science Foundation, Microsoft Research, and Yahoo! Research. The Council thanks Leake for all of his efforts.

Tony Cohn reported that the AAAI Press continues to publish electronically and in limited hard copy the proceedings from all AAAI conferences, as well as several affiliated conferences — approximately 6-10 titles per year. It added 28 technical reports to its list between September 2007 and July 2008. There has been some activity in the edited collections area, and several contracts are now in process.

On a related issue, Maria Gini and Moshe Tennenholtz have requested that AAAI designate a representative to serve on an advisory board for the CACM. This person would advise the editors of the best conference papers each year in the field of artificial intelligence. The type of article that might result in *CACM*, which would be

geared toward the general computer science community, might translate into a more in-depth article in *AI Magazine*. The Council agreed that it is important to keep *AI Magazine* in the loop on these deliberations. The Executive Committee will seek a candidate for this position.

Conference. (*This report is an update from the more comprehensive report in the March 2008 minutes.*) Conference Committee chair Yolanda Gil noted that of the 937 submissions to the main technical program and special tracks, 227 were accepted as regular papers, all of them with oral presentation. A small number of these (47) were also selected for the outstanding poster presentation forum. An additional 23 papers were accepted as short papers with poster presentation only (new in 2008), and 24 presentations will be made in the Nectar and Senior Member tracks. Eighteen papers were accepted to the Nectar track, of which 18 were accepted, and another 6 submissions were accepted to the Senior Member track. The number of full paper submissions and presentations has more than doubled in the past several years. Gil also reported that overall preregistration for AAAI-08 was on par with that for 2007, although there was a significant increase in the number of students attending. Tutorial attendance remained constant, but workshop attendance was up by 30 percent. Approximately, 1,100 people are expected to participate in the conference in some way. David E. Smith suggested that the Conference Committee, in consulta-

tion with Carol Hamilton, study the current fee structure to see if it makes sense to incorporate the tutorial fee into the technical registration fee in 2010.

Gil reported that the organizers of the new AI Teaching Forum did a great job in attracting participants from a host of colleges that might not otherwise come to AAAI. She would like to see this program continued at IJCAI in 2009, perhaps as a more formal track. It would also be great to see the curriculum linked through AI Topics. Gil will try to recruit someone to continue the program in 2009.

David Aha reported that the second AI Video Competition received 36 submissions from 8 countries, and sponsorship doubled since 2007. The goal of the program is to attract students to the field through the development of videos. Although the focus now is on entertainment, Aha welcomes ideas to expand technical content. Bruce Buchanan noted that the AI Video Project would like to incorporate these videos into the AAAI archive.

Gil reported that the Robot Competition and Exhibition has migrated into the Robot Workshops and Exhibition. The robot program will comprise two half-day workshops and two days of exhibitions and demonstrations. The first workshop, entitled "Robotics and Creativity" examines research where robots employ cognitive models and computation to display creativity. Also explored are partnerships among artists, scientists and engineers to generate a creative synergy and stimulate breakthroughs. The second, entitled "Mobility and Manipulation" studies advanced perception and cognition. Holly Yanco noted that these changes and the shift from a competition-based program are a result of the Robot Steering Committee's deliberations to find ways in which the event could be modified to improve its impact in terms of showcasing current research, encouraging undergraduate education, and providing outreach opportunities to the AAAI community. To encourage participation by senior researchers in the workshop topic areas, they were invited to give talks.

Gil also reported that the number of submissions for the 2008 AIIDE con-

ference, which will be held October 22–24 at Stanford University, dramatically increased this year. Conference chair Michael Mateas and program chair Christian Darken expanded their efforts to attract industry participation by adding an industry track to the program. This track will include presentations of AI techniques, issues, or case studies from the perspective of implementing a product in the current commercial environment.

ICWSM-08 attracted 185 participants, which was up by almost 40 percent from the first conference held in Boulder in 2007. Plans are underway for the next conference, which will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area. AAAI is also in the process of developing a permanent logo for the conference.

Symposium. Symposium associate chair Holly Yanco announced that Alan Schultz will be stepping down as chair of the Symposium Committee after the 2008 Fall Symposium Series. Cochair Marjorie Skubic will take over for Schultz and Chad Jenkins will be the new cochair. Yanco reported that participation per symposium at the 2008 Spring Symposium was on track with 2007, although overall attendance was down because there were eight symposia instead of nine. Seven symposia will be held in Fall 2008. Another nine symposia are slated for spring 2009.

Ongoing Business

CRA Report. On behalf of the AAAI CRA Liaison Marie desJardins, Martha Pollack, a member of the CRA Board, reviewed the mission of the CRA, which is an association of over 200 North American academic departments and industry labs, as well as several affiliate computer society members. Pollack reported on several recent CRA activities, including the findings of a subcommittee on the promotion and tenure of interdisciplinary faculty, efforts to coordinate faculty recruiting schedules, the upcoming Snowbird Conference, the results of the most recent Taulbee Survey, the Image of Computing Task Force, the formation of a subcommittee on communications, and activities of the CRA-E, CRA-W, DCD, and CCC. Of

particular note are the findings of the Taulbee Survey, which reported that Ph.D production continues to climb, with most graduates opting for industry positions. Undergraduate degree production and enrollment was down slightly. The Image of Computing Task Force is attempting to address these issues through the launch of its "iCompute" campaign to improve perception and awareness of computing. The Computing Community Consortium (CCC) is an effort to provide scientific leadership and long-term visions for computing research. One of their primary goals is to engage the computing community in this effort. Pollack noted that the Executive Committee will be reviewing the term for the AAAI CRA Liaison to tie it to that of other council positions as well as CRA board terms.

AAAI Annual Business Meeting

The council meeting broke for the AAAI Annual Business Meeting, at which time installation of newly elected councilors Claire Cardie, Amy Greenwald, Gal Kaminka, and Tuomas Sandholm was completed.

Ongoing Business (continued)

AI Topics. Bruce Buchanan and Reid Smith updated the Council on the status of AI Topics and the AI Video Project. Due to the AI Topics webmaster's ill health, a student from Rice University has been temporarily engaged to assist with the redesign and maintenance of the site. The current goal is to form an editorial board with an editor for each of the 21 current topic areas. Each editor will develop and organize the content for his or her area. The biggest challenge is to establish a consistent revenue stream for the site as well as the future of the video archive, which is currently being developed through a grant from NSF. Several ideas have been discussed, including recruitment ads from university departments, Google ads that generate ad cents, as well as corporate sponsorships. Buchanan invited members of the Council to stop by the exhibit in the registration area and welcomed their feedback on the site, as well as suggestions for good editors.

IJCAI-09. Carol Hamilton reported

that plans for IJCAI-09 are well underway. The Conference Committee, including Hiroaki Kitano, Craig Boutilier, Rich Doyle, Sam Uthrusamy, Vesna Sabljakovic-Fritz, and Hamilton, meets biweekly to discuss progress and upcoming deadlines. Local Arrangements Chair has recruited 17 members for the LAC, including representatives USC/ICT, the University of California, Irvine, the University of California, Los Angeles, Jet Propulsion Laboratories, The Aerospace Corporation, and Northrop Grumman Corporation. Subcommittees on fundraising, technical tours, and special events have been formed. The IJCAI-09 poster has been finalized and distributed at AAAI-08, ECAI-08, and RoboCup. AAAI will continue to distribute the poster throughout the year. The website has been launched, and the call for participation will be published later in the summer. The budget will be further refined as plans are solidified.

AAAI-11. Carol Hamilton presented the current proposals for AAAI-11 from San Francisco and several sites in Hawaii. Other west coast suggestions were discussed as well. In general, there was great enthusiasm for San Francisco, especially because 2011 will be the Twenty-Fifth AAAI Conference, and because its location is so central to so many AI research and industry sites. In addition, there are restrictions for some people regarding travel to Hawaii. Hamilton will pursue a contract with the San Francisco property.

Publications Access Report. Martha Pollack, who chaired the Publications Access Task Force, reported that the committee met several times during the preceding nine months to consider the issues associated with opening up access to the AAAI digital library. They also consulted university librarians, leaders of the open access movement, staff of academic presses, and members of other professional organizations. Finally, a membership survey was conducted. After much discussion and deliberation, the committee voted to open up access to the AAAI Digital Library, with the exception of the *AI Magazine* and AAAI Press books. *AI Magazine* would remain a benefit of membership in AAAI. The committee based their recommendations on their

assessment that it is the duty of a scientific society to ensure broad access to scientific literature, that many younger researchers would not see the research unless it was freely available, and that researchers might decide not to submit to AAAI conferences if its library remained closed.

Pollack noted that there is likely to be a negative financial impact to opening up access because of attrition in membership, and a decline in the sales of printed proceedings and technical reports. To offset these losses, the committee considered several other options, including author fees for accepted papers, embargo periods during which only members would have access to all papers, or nominal fees for nonmembers to download materials. In the end, none of these options appealed to the committee, but they did make several suggestions that might help mitigate any losses, such as banner advertising, grant support, gifts or endowments, increased conference fees, increased membership fees, and increased institutional fees, which might include additional benefits.

After much discussion, the Council voted to approve the recommendation to open up access to the AAAI Digital Library, excluding *AI Magazine* and AAAI Press books. The Council requested an implementation plan from Carol Hamilton to the Executive Committee by December 1 that will address the concerns raised in the recommendation, and that will outline the plan for opening up access.

Strategic Planning Working Group. Chair Alan Mackworth circulated the current version of the AAAI Strategic Plan produced by this committee, which includes a vision statement, mission statement, a list of values, and a list of goals. The goals are further broken down into broad tasks that would carry out the stated goals. Mackworth solicited feedback from the Council as the SPWG continues to refine the document. There was some sentiment that the current plan is at the vision stage, and lacks an implementation plan, which would be a key component of a Strategic Plan. Mackworth will bring the feedback to the SPWG, and perhaps restructure this document as the foundation for a full-

blown Strategic Plan for the organization. A revised version will be submitted to the Strategic Planning Board for review, and then forwarded to the Council for review.

New Business

AIJ Access. Eric Horvitz reviewed the status of access to the electronic version of the *AI Journal*, which is currently a benefit of AAAI membership. IJCAI has worked out an arrangement with Elsevier to open up this access to the international community. AAAI would like to jointly sponsor this effort through the set-up and maintenance of the IJCAI portal to access the site. The Council approved this recommendation, and Tony Cohn agreed to bring the proposal to the IJCAI Board of Trustees for discussion.

International Role and Image. Eric Horvitz opened up a discussion about possible ways to forge associations with other computing societies and international organizations. The establishment of joint awards, such as the AAAI/ACM Allen Newell Award, cosponsored events with national societies, or joint membership fees with other international organizations were discussed. Horvitz encouraged Council members to write to the Executive Committee with suggestions for outreach.

Horvitz thanked everyone for coming, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Independent Auditor's Report

The Board of Directors
Association for the Advancement of
Artificial Intelligence
Menlo Park, California

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (a California nonprofit corporation) as of December 31, 2007, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence's management. Our responsibility

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 346,453
Investments	7,269,653
Accounts receivable	20,547
Inventory	171,783
Prepaid Expenses	40,283
Deposits	10,452
Total Current Assets	7,859,171
Non-Current Assets	
Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	21,725
Total Assets	<u>\$ 7,880,896</u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 50,238
Accrued vacation	50,679
Funds held in trust for other organizations	180,319
Unearned membership fees	303,345
Other deferred revenues	7,623
Total Liabilities	592,204
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	7,288,692
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 7,880,896</u>

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2007

See the accompanying notes to financial statements.

Revenues	
Program revenues	\$ 943,448
Membership fees	381,543
Investment income, net of investment expenses	102,901
Other income	125
Total Support and Revenues	1,428,017
Expenses	
Program services	1,120,861
Membership Services	157,048
Supporting Services	575,335
Total program and supporting services	1,853,244
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(425,227)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	7,713,919
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 7,288,692</u>

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2007

See the accompanying notes to financial statements.

ity is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence as of December 31, 2007, and the changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Vavrinek, Trine, Day
& Company, LLP
Pleasanton, California
November 10, 2008

Notes to Financial Statements

Note #1 — Nature of Organization and Significant Accounting Policies

Organization

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (the "Association") was incorporated in the State of California in 1979 as a nonprofit scientific society, to encourage the basic knowledge of what constitutes intelligent thought and behavior and how it can be exhibited in computers. This is accomplished by the *AI Magazine*, the publications of the AAAI Press, the AAAI conference on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), the Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelli-

gence (IAAI), the conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE), the Mobile Robot Competition, the Symposium Series, and the AAAI Workshop Program. In addition, AAAI has an extensive program for student scholarships, and sponsorship of independent workshops and conferences. Finally, AAAI's World Wide Web Site serves as a central resource for individuals involved in AI research.

Effective March 1, 2007, the Association changed its name from American Association For Artificial Intelligence to Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence.

Financial Statement Presentation

The Association presents its financial statements in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations." Under SFAS No. 117, the Association is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. The Foundation only has unrestricted net assets. Contributions received with donor-imposed restrictions that are met in the same year in which the contributions are received are classified as unrestricted contributions. In addition, the Foundation is required to present a statement of cash flows. As permitted by the statement, the Foundation does not use fund accounting. Revenues and expenses are recorded when incurred in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting.

Investments

The Association presents its investments in accordance with SFAS No. 124, "Accounting for Certain Investments Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations." Under SFAS No. 124, investments in marketable securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are reported at their fair values in the statement of financial position. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets. All investment income and gains are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions are met (either by passage

	Program Services	Membership Services	Supporting Services	Total
Program Services				
AI Magazine	\$ 153,605	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 153,605
AAAI Press Cost of Sales	123,631	-	-	123,631
Symposium	137,272	-	-	137,272
Tutorials	20,405	-	-	20,405
Technical Program	390,953	-	-	390,953
Conference Service	16,751	-	-	16,751
AIIDE	54,085	-	-	54,085
Exhibits	60,245	-	-	60,245
Grants	141,655	-	-	141,655
Workshop	22,259	-	-	22,259
Membership Services				
Salaries	-	98,372	-	98,372
Employee benefits	-	24,404	-	24,404
Other membership support	-	34,272	-	34,272
Support Services				
Salaries	-	-	194,949	194,949
Employee benefits	-	-	36,326	36,326
Rent	-	-	110,984	110,984
Web development and maintenance	-	-	110,557	110,557
Other operating expenses	-	-	122,519	122,519
Total Expenses	\$ 1,120,861	\$ 157,048	\$ 575,335	\$ 1,853,244

Statement of Functional Expenses for the Year Ended December 31, 2007

See the accompanying notes to financial statements.

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Change in net assets	\$ (528,128)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operations	
Depreciation	12,291
Unrealized and realized gains on investments, net of management fees	(122,678)
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	(17,718)
Decrease in inventory	7,834
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	(13,609)
Decrease (increase) in deposit	(5,173)
Decrease in accounts payable	(16,394)
Increase in accounts payable	50,679
Increase in funds held in trust	58,033
Decrease in unearned membership fees	(1,342)
Increase (decrease) in other deferred revenues	(765)
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	(576,970)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Purchase of furnishings and equipment	(14,054)
Sale of investments, net of purchases of investments	261,689
Interest income	225,579
Net Cash Used by Investing Activities	473,214
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(103,756)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of Year	450,209
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of Year	\$ 346,453

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended December 31, 2007

See the accompanying notes to financial statements.

of time or by use) in the reporting period in which the income and gains are recognized.

Inventories

All inventories are valued at cost, using the weighted average method. The Association's inventories consist of AAAI Press Books and CD ROMs.

Equipment

Equipment is stated at cost, or if donated, at estimated fair value on the date of donation. Routine maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred. Depreciation is computed on the straight line method based on the assets' estimated useful lives ranging from five to ten years. Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2007, was \$12,291.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. There is no significant estimate during the reporting period.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash held in checking and money market accounts with maturities of less than 90 days.

Income Taxes

The Association is a nonprofit corporation that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701(d) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Federal and California taxes were paid during 2007 on earnings from sales of mailing lists and advertising.

Allocation of Functional Expenses.

The costs of providing the various programs and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Functional Expenses. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs benefited.

Note #2 — Investment Securities

Investments are stated at fair market value and consist of the following:

Common and preferred stocks	\$ 4,532,799
U.S. obligation bonds	1,796,082
Corporation bonds	<u>940,772</u>
Total	<u>\$ 7,269,653</u>

Investment activity for the years ended December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 consisted of the following:

Realized gains on investments	\$ 467,835
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(513,743)
Interest and dividends	<u>225,579</u>
Total investment income	179,671
Investment expenses	(<u>76,770</u>)
Total investment income, net of expenses	<u>\$ 102,910</u>

Note #3 — Equipment

	Beginning of Year	Additions	Deletions	End of Year
Equipment	\$ 63,928	\$14,054	\$ 3,054	\$ 1,036
Accumulated depreciation	(<u>43,966</u>)	(<u>12,291</u>)	(<u>3,054</u>)	(<u>59,311</u>)
	\$ 19,962	\$ 1,763	-	\$ 21,725

Note #4 — Memberships

Annual membership in the Association is \$95 for individuals, \$35 for student members, and \$190 for academic or corporate libraries. The annual membership fees also include a subscription price to the AI magazine of \$40 per year. Addi-

tional \$40 is charged for other than U.S. members. Three year, five year, and lifetime memberships are also available. Revenues from membership fees are earned ratably over the respective membership period. Lifetime membership fees are recognized as income over ten years.

Note #5 — Pension Benefits

The Association sponsors a pension plan under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Association contributes to individual accounts five percent of their salaries for regular, full-time employees who have worked a minimum of two years at AAAI. In addition, AAAI matches employees' contributions up to five percent of their salaries for regular, full-time employees who have worked a minimum of two years at AAAI.

Note #6 — Lease Commitments

The Association sponsors entered into a lease agreement for its office space expiring on September 30, 2008. The Association is committed to make minimum annual lease payments of \$82,313 for 2008.

Note #7 — Related Party Transactions

A business owned by an individual related to a key employee of the Organization provides printing and/or consulting services to the Organization. During the year ended December 31, 2007, the amount paid for those services was approximately \$213,000.

Note #8 — Subsequent Events

Subsequent to the year end, investment market values may have declined due to volatility in the investment markets.



Burgard



Cohen



McCallum



Rosenstein



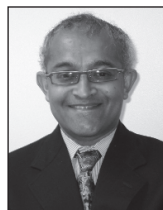
Roth



Rus



Schapire



Subrahmanian



Van Hentenryck

Congratulations to the 2009 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 during IJCAI-09 in Pasadena, California.

Wolfram Burgard, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

For significant contributions to mobile robot navigation and environment modeling.

William W. Cohen, Carnegie Mellon University and Google

For significant contributions to many aspects of the theory and practice of machine learning.

Andrew K. McCallum, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

For significant contributions to the theory and application of information extraction, natural language processing, data mining, machine learning, and their integration.

Jeffrey S. Rosenschein, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

For significant contributions to multiagent systems, automated negotiation, voting mechanisms, and to bringing game-theoretic mechanism design into computer science.

Dan Roth, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

For significant contributions to the foundations of machine learning and inference and to developing learning-centered solutions to natural language problems.

Daniela Rus, MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL)

For significant contributions to the theory and practice of distributed robotics, agents, and sensor networks.

Robert E. Schapire, Princeton University

For significant contributions to machine learning, including the theory and practice of boosting.

Venkatramanan Siva Subrahmanian, University of Maryland, College Park

For significant contributions to the study of probabilistic databases, logic programming and agent-based systems.

Pascal R. Van Hentenryck, Brown University

For significant contributions to constraint satisfaction and reasoning under uncertainty, the development of the widely used CHIP, Numerica, OPL, and Comet systems, and his pioneering role in the inception of constraint programming and its integration in operations research.

New and Recent Books Available from AAAI Press

Twenty-Third AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence

Dieter Fox and Carla Gomes,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/aaai08.php

International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling 2008

Chris Beck and Eric Hansen,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/icaps08.php

Twenty-Second International FLAIRS Conference

H. Chad Lane and Hans Guesgen,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/flairs09.php

Eleventh International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning

Gerhard Brewka and Jérôme Lang,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/kr08.php

Third International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media

Natalie Glance and Matthew Hurst,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/icwsm09.php

International Conference on Computational Cultural Dynamics

V. S. Subrahmanian and Arie Kruglanski,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/icccd08.php

Fourth Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment International Conference

Michael Mateas and Chris Darken,

Program Chairs

www.aaai.org/Press/Proceedings/aiide08.php

Thinking about Android Epistemology

Kenneth Ford, Clark Glymour,

and Patrick J. Hayes

www.aaai.org/Press/Books/ford.php