

AAAI News

Spring News from the American Association for Artificial Intelligence

AAAI Expands Awards Program!

AAAI is pleased to announce the continued expansion of its awards program in 2000. The first AAAI Effective Expository Writing Award will be presented at the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, to be held July 31–August 3 in Austin, Texas. This award joins the two special awards established last year, the AAAI Classic Paper Award and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award.

The AAAI Effective Expository Writing Award honors the author(s) of a high-quality, effective piece of writing, accessible to the general public or to a broad AI audience (not just a sub-area), written within the last two years. The contribution should be based on sound science, interesting ideas, or systematic review, with non-trivial content, but the award is primarily for the exposition—the author need not be the one who has done the research. Nominated papers must be in English and must have been published in a publicly accessible place (for example, periodical, hard copy, or online journal but not only as a web site or technical report). The author(s) of the award-winning paper(s) will receive a \$2500 prize (shared if more than one author) as well as lodging and travel to the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

For more information about the AAAI Awards Program, please see www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.html or contact Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, at hamilton@aaai.org or call 650-328-3123.

AAAI-2000

Registration information for the Seventeenth National Conference on

Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-2000) will be available in March by writing to ncai@aaai.org or at www.aaai.org/Conferences/conferences.html. Copies of the AAAI-2000 registration brochure are being mailed to all AAAI members. Please note that the deadline for early registrations is June 1, 2000.

The conference will be held July 31–August 3, 2000, at the Austin Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Austin in Austin, Texas. AAAI-2000 will feature 14 tutorials, 20 workshops, the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence, the Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, the Intelligent Systems Demonstrations, the Robot Building Laboratory, and the Doctoral Consortium. New for 2000 will be a technical paper poster session, providing an opportunity for attendees to chat informally with authors.

Invited speakers include Craig Boutilier, “Decision Making under Uncertainty: Operations Research Meets AI (Again)”; Justine Cassell, “Why Do We Need a Body Anyway?”; Carla Gomes, “Structure, Duality, and Randomization: Common Themes in AI and OR”; James Hendler, “Missed Perceptions: AI versus the Funding Agencies”; Geoff Hinton, “Modeling High-Dimensional Data Distributions by Combining Simple Experts”; Rich Korf, “Design and Analysis of Heuristic Evaluation Functions”; David Kortenkamp, “Artificial Intelligence and Mobile Robots: Successes and Challenges”; Alon Levy, “Panel: Artificial Intelligence in Recent Startups”; J Strother Moore, “Machines Reasoning about Machines”; Shree Nayar and Jonathan Schaeffer, “The Games Computers (and People) Play”; Mike Tanenhaus, “Eye Movements and Spoken Language Comprehension: Bridg-

ing the Language-as-Action and Language-as-Product Traditions”; and Bill Woods, “Conceptual Indexing: Practical Large-Scale AI for Efficient Information Access.”

Austin, Texas, the “live music capital of the world,” is located on the Colorado River, at the edge of the Texas Hill Country. The Austin Convention Center is situated in the heart of the capital city between the shores of Town Lake and historic Sixth Street, surrounded by restaurants and nightclubs. For more information about what is happening in Austin, please visit www.austin360.com/acvb/.

Collocated Conference in Austin—New AAAI Affiliate

AAAI is delighted to announce the collocation of SARA-2000 with AAAI-2000. The Symposium on Abstraction, Reformulation, and Approximation will be held July 26–29, just outside Austin in Lago Vista on Lake Travis, Texas. For more information about SARA-2000, please visit sara2000.unl.edu/.

AAAI also welcomes SARA-2000 as our first affiliate conference. For more information about the AAAI Affiliates Program, please write to Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

AAAI-2000 Student Programs

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Abstract and Poster Program, the SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Consortium, and the AAAI Scholarship and Volunteer Programs. Students interested in attending the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Austin, July 31–August 3, 2000, should consult the AAAI web site for further information about all these programs at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2000/Student/aaai2000-student.html.

The Scholarship Program provides partial travel support and a complimentary technical program registration for students who (1) are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; (2) are members of AAAI; (3) submit papers to the technical program or letters of recommendation from their faculty adviser;

and (4) submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 15, 2000. 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 Scholarship Program or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at scholarships@aaai.org, or 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, 650-328-3123.

All student scholarship recipients will be required to participate in the Student Volunteer Program to support AAAI organizers in Austin. 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 AAAI-2000 organizers in Austin. This program does not provide any scholarship funds and is designed for local students or students who have other sources for travel funds. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at volunteer@aaai.org. The deadline for volunteer applications is May 31, 2000.

AAAI Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mail for your AAAI Ballot, which will be mailed to all regular AAAI members in late April. The membership will vote for four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. Ballots will be due back at the AAAI office no later than June 15. The Annual Business Meeting for AAAI will be held this summer during AAAI-2000 in Austin, Texas. The exact day

and time will be announced on the ballot, in the summer issue of the magazine, and in the conference program.

2000 Fall Symposium Series

The 2000 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 3–5, 2000, at the Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. The topics of the five symposia in the 2000 Fall Symposia Series are

- Building Dialogue Systems for Tutorial Applications
Cochairs: Carolyn Penstein Rose and Reva Freedman (www.pitt.edu/~circle/its-symp.html)
- Learning How to Do Things
Cochairs: Mathias Bauer (bauer@dfki.de) and Charles Rich (rich@merl.com) Send submissions to learninghow@dfki.de
- Parallel Cognition for Embodied Agents
Cochairs: Ian Horswill (ian@cs.nwu.edu) and Alan Schultz
- Simulating Human Agents
Chair: Michael Freed (mfreed@mail.arc.nasa.gov)
- Socially Intelligent Agents—The Human in the Loop
Chair: Kerstin Dautenhahn (K.Dautenhahn@cyber.reading.ac.uk) (www.cyber.rdg.ac.uk/people/kd/WWW/SIA-2000.html)

The deadline for submissions is March 29, 2000. The Call for Participation has been sent to all AAAI members and is posted on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fall-symposia.html.

2000 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI is currently accepting proposals for the 2001 Spring Symposium Series, to be held at Stanford University, California, March 26–28, 2001.

Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for the 2001 Spring Symposium Series. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Committee (chair: Ian Hor-

swill, Northwestern University; cochair: Dan Clancy, NASA Ames Research Center; and an associate chair). Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than April 13, 2000. The Call for Proposals has been sent to all AAAI members and is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2001/sssproposals-2001.pdf.

Please submit (preferably by electronic mail) your symposium proposals, and inquiries concerning symposia, to

Ian Horswill
AAAI Symposium Chair
Computer Science Department
Northwestern University
ian@cs.nwu.edu
Voice: 1-847-467-1256
Fax: 1-847-491-5258

New CDs from AAAI Press

AAAI Press is pleased to announce publication of the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence CD-ROM set. Containing all the papers from the 1980–1997 national conferences on artificial intelligence, this five-CD set is now available for immediate purchase. The AAAI-1999 CD, which also contains the knowledge discovery and data mining conference papers from 1995–1998, is also available. For ordering information, please see the announcement advertisement elsewhere in this issue, or contact AAAI Press at press@aaai.org.

AAAI Member List Server

Would you like to receive e-mail notifications of upcoming deadlines and programs? If so, please subscribe to our AAAI membership list server by writing to majordomo@aaai.org with the following text in the body of the message: subscribe aaai-members.

Correction

In the Fall 1999 (volume 20 number 3) issue of *AI Magazine*, the author of the 1998 Spring Symposium report on Multimodal Reasoning was Edwina Rissland. Although Eugene Freuder was the chair of the symposium, he was not the author of the report.