

Computers & Thought



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& Julian Feldman

EDITORS

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AAAI News

*Spring News from the
American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

Artificial Intelligence 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 experimental 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.

AAAI-Sponsored Journal Program Expanded

Did you know that you are eligible to receive a discount for many journals in the AI field? The list of journals in AAAI's Sponsored Journal program has recently expanded from five to eleven titles—if you subscribe to several journals, the discounts can more than equal your membership dues! For more information about the Sponsored Journal Program, please see www.aaai.org/Publications/Journals/sponsored-journals.html.

AAAI-02

Registration information for the Eighteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-02) will be available in March by writing to ncai@aaai.org or by visiting AAAI's website at www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2002/aaai02.html. Copies of the AAAI-02 registration brochure are being mailed to all AAAI members. Please note that the deadline for early registrations is May 31, 2002. If you would like a AAAI-02 poster for your lab, please write to us at ncai@aaai.org.

The conference will be held July 28 – August 1 at the Shaw Convention Center and the Westin Edmonton Hotel, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. AAAI-02 will feature twelve tutorials, twenty workshops, the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference, the Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, the Intelligent Systems Demonstration program, the AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium, and the Robot Building Laboratory. The Keynote Address will be delivered by Michael Jordan, University of California, Berkeley, and the AAAI Presidential Address will be given by Tom Mitchell of Carnegie Mellon University. Other invited speakers include Hector Geffner, Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Tally Tishby, Hebrew University. A special AAAI-02/IAAI-02 joint invited talk by Ray Kurzweil is also scheduled. The AAAI-02 Opening Reception will be held at Fort Edmonton, Canada's largest living history park, which offers a glimpse into life in the early fur trading days, frontier life in 1885 and gives a peak into the brand new city in 1905 and its progress into the 20th century.

The year 2002 will bring some changes to AAAI. First, this will be the

first time that AAAI's National conference has been held in Canada—a trend that we hope continues on a periodic basis. In addition, the program chairs are experimenting with a new format for AAAI. The technical conference will be structured around an all-day plenary session followed by poster sessions in the evening. We hope you will join us for this exciting new program in Edmonton!

Edmonton: The Festival City

Edmonton is the capital of the province of Alberta, the second largest metropolitan area west of Toronto, and the fifth largest city in Canada. The city originated from a humble fur trading post built by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1795. Edmonton's first period of growth was fueled by the legendary Klondike Gold Rush of 1897. At that time, the tiny frontier community of Fort Edmonton was the last supply center for legions of adventurers following Canada's arduous overland route to the Klondike gold fields. The future greatness of Edmonton was assured when the province named the bustling city Alberta's capital in 1906. A third major period of growth came with the discovery of vast reserves of "black gold" in the region in 1947.

Edmonton features many attractions of interest, including galleries, museums, zoos, and historical sites. The North Saskatchewan River Valley includes the longest stretch of urban parkland in Canada. Known as "Canada's Festival City," Edmonton hosts more than nineteen major festivals each year, including the Klondike Festival, which overlaps the beginning of AAAI-02. Edmonton is also the gateway to the Canadian Rockies and beautiful Jasper National Park, accessed either by the TransCanada Yellowhead Highway or Canadian rail.

The Shaw Convention Centre offers a spectacular view of Edmonton's river valley from the banks of the North Saskatchewan river. This award-winning facility is situated in the heart of the City's vibrant downtown core. Visitors gain easy access to Edmonton's major hotels, fine restaurants, theatre, and downtown shopping district through direct pedway connections. For more informa-

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tion about Edmonton, please visit
www.ede.org.

Collocated Events in Edmonton

Several conferences have elected to col-
locate with AAAI in Edmonton this
summer. AAAI attendees will enjoy dis-
counts at these events:

- **Fourteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-02)**, July 30 - August 1, www.aaai.org/Conferences/IAAI/2002/iaai02.html
- **The Third Annual Canadian Database Research Workshop (CanDB)**, July 22, db.cs.ualberta.ca/candb
- **Third International Conference on Computers and Games (CG'02)**, July 25-27, www.cs.ualberta.ca/~cg2002
- **International Database Engineering and Applications Symposium (IDEAS'02)**, July 17-19, database.cs.ualberta.ca/ideas02
- **Tenth Annual Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB 2002)**, August 3-7, www.ismb02.org

- **The Eighth ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD-2002)**, July 23-26, www.acm.org/sigkdd/kdd2002
- **Symposium on Abstraction, Reformulation and Approximation (SARA 2002)** Kananaskis Mountain Lodge, Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, August 2-4, www.cs.ualberta.ca/~holte/SARA2002
- **Association for Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI '02)**, August 1-4, www.cs.ucla.edu/~uai02

For more information about collocat-
ed events, please see www.cs.ualberta.ca/Edmonton2002/

Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the con-
tinuation of its Student Scholar and
Volunteer Programs. The Student
Scholar Program provides partial travel
support and a complimentary techni-
cal program registration for students
who are full-time undergraduate or

graduate students at colleges and uni-
versities; are members of AAAI; submit
papers to the technical program or let-
ters of recommendation from their fac-
ulty advisor; and submit scholarship
applications to AAAI by April 15, 2002.
In addition, repeat scholarship appli-
cants must have fulfilled the volunteer
and reporting requirements for previ-
ous awards.

In the event that scholarship appli-
cations exceed available funds, prefer-
ence will be given to students who
have an accepted technical paper, and
then to students who are actively par-
ticipating in the conference in some
way. However, all eligible students are
encouraged to apply.

After the conference, an expense re-
port will be required to account for
the funds awarded. For further infor-
mation about the Scholarship Pro-
gram, 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 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. 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-02 organizers in Edmonton. 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, 2002.

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 14. The Annual Business meeting for AAAI will be held this summer during AAAI-02 in Edmonton, Alberta. The exact day and time will be announced on the ballot, in the summer issue of the magazine and in the conference program.

AAAI Executive Council Committee Appointments

AAAI is delighted to announce the following appointments to the Executive Council Standing Committees:

- *Conference Chair*: Jim Hendler, University of Maryland
 - *Publications Chair*: David Leake, Indiana University
 - *Symposium Chair*: Holly Yanco, University of Massachusetts at Lowell
- Many thanks to all for agreeing to serve, and also to retiring chairs Paul Rosenbloom, Ken Ford, and Dan Clancy.

2002 Fall Symposium Series

The 2002 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 15-17, 2002 at the Sea Crest Conference Center in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. The topics of the five symposia in the 2002 Fall Symposia Series are:

- **Chance Discovery: The Discovery and Management of Chance Events.** *Cochairs*: Peter McBurney, The University of Liverpool (p.j.mcburney@csc.liv.ac.uk), Simon Parsons, The University of Liverpool (s.d.parsons@csc.liv.ac.uk), and Yukio Osawa, University of Tsukuba (osawa@gssm.otsuka.tsukuba.ac.jp), www.miv.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~matumura/FSS02/
- **Etiquette for Human-Computer Work.** *Chair*: Christopher A. Miller, Smart Information Flow Technologies (cmiller@SIFTech.com)
- **Human-Robot Interaction.** *Chair*: Alan C. Schultz, Naval Research Lab (www.aic.nrl.navy.mil/~schultz/fss02-hri)
- **Intent Inference for Users, Teams, and Adversaries.** *Cochairs*: Eugene Santos Jr., University of Connecticut (eugene@cse.uconn.edu) and Benjamin Bell, Lockheed Martin (benjamin.l.bell@lmco.com)
- **Personalized Agents.** *Cochairs*: Peter Stone (pstone@research.att.com), Gal Kaminka, Carnegie Mellon University (galk@cs.cmu.edu), and Charles Isbell (isbell@research.att.com)

The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2002. The Call for Participation has been posted on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/2002/fss-02.html.

2003 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI is currently accepting proposals for the 2003 Spring Symposium Series, to be held at Stanford University, California, March 24-26, 2003.

Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for the 2003 Spring Symposium Series. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium Chair, Holly Yanco, University

of Massachusetts at Lowell. Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than May 15, 2002. The Call for Proposals is available at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2003/sss-03.html.

Please submit (preferably by electronic mail) your symposium proposals, and inquiries concerning symposia, to Holly Yanco, Computer Science Department, University of Massachusetts at Lowell, Olsen Hall, 1 University Avenue, Lowell, MA 01854, Voice: 978-934-3642, Fax: 978-934-3551, E-mail: holly@cs.uml.edu.

IJCAI-03 in Acapulco, Mexico!

Please mark your calendars now for the Eighteenth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, to be held August 9-15, 2003 in Acapulco, Mexico. The conference will be co-sponsored by AAAI, so there will be no national conference in 2003. For more information about IJCAI-03, please refer to the IJCAI, Inc. web site at www.ijcai.org.

We hope to see you in Acapulco!

AI ALERT Newsletter

Many of you are now enjoying regular editions of the *AI ALERT* newsletter, which highlights selected features from the "AI in the News" section of the AAAI Pathfinder/AI Topics web pages. This new service keeps you informed of what is being written on AI in the press within the past few weeks. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please subscribe to the AAAI member list server (see instructions below). We welcome your feedback on the newsletter at aitopics@aaai.org. Be sure to visit the AI Topics web site at www.aaai.org/AITopics/aitopics.html, and see Jon Glick's AI in the News column, which premieres in this issue of *AI Magazine*.

AAAI Member List Server

Would you like to receive email 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.

ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award

AAAI is pleased to announce that Ruzena Bajcsy, Director of the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS), University of California at Berkeley, is the recipient of the 2001 ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award. The ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award is presented annually to an individual whose career contributions display breadth within computer science, or bridge computer science and other disciplines. The award is endowed by AAAI. Ruzena Bajcsy is recognized for her outstanding research contributions in several areas, including computational anatomy, and active sensing and perception, resulting in major impacts in computer graphics, virtual reality, computer vision and artificial intelligence. She will be honored at the ACM Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 27, 2002 at the University of Toronto's Hart House.

Lakatos Award 2001 Announced

The London School of Economics and Political Science is pleased to announce that this year's Lakatos Award of \$10,000 for an outstanding contribution to the philosophy of science goes to Judea Pearl for his book, *Causality: Models, Reasoning and Inference* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). Pearl, of the University of California at Los Angeles, will visit LSE to give a public award lecture and receive the award in the spring term, 2002. The Lakatos Award is given for an outstanding contribution to the philosophy of science in the form of a book published in English during the previous six years. It is in memory of former LSE professor Imre Lakatos, and is administered by an international Management Committee chaired by Anthony Giddens, Director of LSE. Judea Pearl's book shows how causality—often treated with suspicion as an inevitably nebulous concept—can in fact be developed as a precise, mathematically expressed no-

tion with important applications in the fields of statistics, philosophy of science, cognitive science and the health and social sciences.

Minutes, AAAI Executive Council Meeting

The AAAI Executive Council meeting was held August 5, 2001, in Seattle, Washington. Attending were Ron Brachman, Bruce Buchanan, Craig Boutilier, Rina Dechter, Richard Doyle, Tim Finin, Barbara Grosz, Jim Hendler, Craig Knoblock, David Leake, Deborah McGuinness, David Poole, Tom Mitchell, Norm Nielsen, Paul Rosenbloom, Bart Selman, Reid Simmons, Manuela Veloso, David Waltz, Michael Wellman, Carol Hamilton, and Mike Hamilton.

Bruce Buchanan called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. He welcomed the President-Elect, Ron Brachman, and four new councilors, Marie desJardins, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Craig Knoblock, USC/ISI, Daphne Koller, Stanford University, and Peter Norvig, Google, Inc. Buchanan thanked retiring councilors Henry Kautz, David McAllester, Johanna Moore, Michael Wellman. He also presented David Waltz with a plaque, recognizing his nine-plus years of service for AAAI, including as President (1999-2001).

Committee Reports

Committee reports were presented from the Finance, Conference, Awards/Fellow/Nominating, Membership, Publications, Grants, and Symposium Committees.

Finance

Secretary-Treasurer Norm Nielsen reported that the AAAI operating reserve was beginning to show signs of the sluggish economy and the effects of AAAI withdrawals for operating expenses. The market value of the portfolio declined by 10 percent in the year 2000. By June 2001 it had declined another 10 percent. If this trend continues, Nielsen suggested that the Council may need to reevaluate the current list of AAAI grants.

Conference

Conference Chair Paul Rosenbloom

introduced Rina Dechter, AAAI-02 Cochair, who reported progress on the plans for the conference. Subchairs for all programs had been appointed, as well as the 24 members of the Senior Program Committee. Dechter reminded the Council that the conference will experiment with a new format in 2002, converting from parallel sessions to one main plenary session and evening poster sessions. The Council suggested that an announcement about the change in format be made to the membership. It was decided that the cochairs would write a letter to the membership, which would be published in the winter issue of the magazine and distributed to all members by email. In addition, a questionnaire will be circulated after the conference to evaluate the success of the new format.

Carol Hamilton reported that the search for 2004 sites continues, with possible venues in Chicago, Boston, Hawaii, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Carol Hamilton also reported on IJ-CAI-01, which was cosponsored by AAAI. The conference had a healthy preregistration count of over 1,000 paid attendees, and 330 other technical attendees, including student scholars and committee chairs. In addition to the technical program, other programs included the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference, the National Botball Tournament, the AAAI Robot Competition, RoboCup, twenty tutorials, and twenty-nine workshops. The collocation of RoboCup made a significant difference in the level of activity at the conference site, as this program usually attracts at least another 1,000 exhibits only registrants, 400 RoboCup participants, and a significant number of media representatives. Hamilton noted that organizers hope that the conference will break even, with significant support from Microsoft and Boeing.

Awards/Fellow/Nominating

Past President Dave Waltz noted that no AAAI Special Awards will be presented in 2001 because no national conference will be held. Nominations for 2002 will be accepted through March 15, 2002. No new awards have

been added to the current list of Classic Paper, Distinguished Service, and Expository Writing. The Fellows Selection Committee selected six new fellows, announced separately in an earlier edition of AAAI News, out of 32 nominations. The committee is allowed to add up to 10 new fellows each year. The Nominating Committee presented a ballot of one president-elect and 8 candidates for councilor. The results are noted at the beginning of these minutes.

Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI presented 12 awards of \$1,000 each to 17 students (joint projects split \$1000) at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2001 (ISEF2001), held May 6–13 in San Jose, California. These awards are given for the best projects in computer science with an artificial intelligence component. Up to \$15,000 is set aside for this purpose. AAAI sent four judges, including Reid Simmons (Chair), Dan Clancy, Pat Hayes, and Martha Pollack. The Council thanked Reid and all the judges for their time and effort on this project. (See New Business for more discussion of ISEF awards.)

Membership Committee

Membership Chair Reid Simmons reported that membership numbers are still continuing to decline slightly each year. There are currently about 6400 member worldwide, including all types. Simmons hopes to increase this number through the strategic planning efforts of the newly formed Membership Committee. The periodic newsletter proposed at the last meeting is now being circulated via email to interested members. Called *AI Alert*, it highlights selected features from the "AI in the News" section of the AAAI AI Topics web pages. Simmons also introduced a proposal to form AAAI Chapters. Several suggestions for modifications to the proposal were made, and Simmons agreed to circulate a revised proposal via email. If the chapter program is instituted, the Council encouraged a 3-5 year review of the program to measure its effectiveness and success.

Publications

David Leake, Editor-in-Chief of *AI Magazine*, reported that the editorial content for the magazine is set for the

next several issues. The scanning project, which included all the issues of the magazines back to 1980 is now complete. A CD containing all the articles from Volumes 1-21 will be available in Fall 2002. Regular members can access these articles via the Member's Only web site. Leake also noted that B. Chandrasekaran has stepped down as book editor, and a search for a new editor is under way. The Swiss AI Society is continuing to purchase the *AI Magazine* for its members. Another new indexer, ResearchIndex, has been added to the list.

AAAI Press Editor Ken Ford could not attend the meeting, so Mike Hamilton presented the report on his behalf. Three new books are being released in Fall 2001. Four additional titles were reprinted, and a new edition of *Android Epistemology* is in the works. A special fortieth anniversary edition of *Computers & Thought* is being considered. The technical report archive is now being assembled and prepared for scanning. This project is scheduled for completion in summer 2002. Investigation of possible e-book vendors is also being conducted. The AAAI Press is currently soliciting new proposals for books in 2002.

Grants

Grants Chair Manuela Veloso reviewed AAAI's grant activity during the past year. About \$298,100 was granted during the period of August 2000 - July 2001. Of this, \$42,200 went to independent conferences and workshops, \$10,000 to Women & Minority Grants, about \$70,200 to AAAI support of conference programs, \$67,600 in student scholarships for AAAI conferences and symposia, \$26,100 in awards, \$3,300 for the AAAI Fellows program, \$33,600 for *AI Journal* access, \$33,600 for the AI Information Project, and about \$11,500 in other miscellaneous grants. Veloso noted that these figures are not final for the period, especially those related to AAAI conference support. It is anticipated that another \$75,000 will be spent on 2001 robotic programs at IJCAI-01.

Veloso also reported that the Grants Committee is in the process of reviewing the guidelines for AAAI support of outside conferences and workshops. She noted that her initial review was

positive, but that she wanted to add one or two conditions, including AAAI membership for one of the main organizers and a link from the conference web site to the AAAI membership web site. The Council suggested that we might want to provide a complimentary AAAI membership to students receiving the grants. The Grants Committee will review the guidelines again, and provide feedback at the next Council meeting.

Symposium

Symposium Associate Chair David Poole reported that the Spring Symposium Series, held at Stanford University, had 340 attendees for 7 symposia, up 23 percent from 2000, partially as a result of one additional symposium being held. The 2002 program has been selected and includes 9 symposia, which should boost attendance even more. It is still a struggle sometimes to solicit good proposals for the fall series, which usually includes 5 symposia. The 2001 series will be held on Cape Cod again. Other sites may be considered for 2002, based on feedback from 2001 attendees. Poole also noted that he has not been involved in the selection process until now, but hopes to become involved during the next selection process.

Old Business

AI Exploratorium

Jonathan Schaeffer gave a brief update on the grant that AAAI provided to the University of Alberta for the AI Exploratorium project. The \$20,000 was used to build two applets, and also provided a good deal of experience for the team as they try to determine what is needed and how to implement that. Schaeffer encouraged the Council to consider a site that will be a resource for researchers and educators, as well as students and the general public, the audience that AI Topics currently targets. Russ Greiner and Schaeffer conducted a workshop during IJCAI-01 to explore a vision for AI on the web, to investigate what is currently out there, and what cooperative efforts can be made. Schaeffer envisions a site where experts would be editors for a page in their own research area, and hopes to work with others to create such an infrastructure.

International Organization

Barbara Grosz reported that a meeting was to be convened on the following day to discuss the possibility of organizing an international organization. The participants include representatives from 14 national societies, as well as ECCAI and IJCAI.

Grosz noted that there had been a series of discussions prior to the meeting to explore the purpose of the international organization. The general consensus was that some coordination and information exchange is needed among the societies and international conferences. Other proposed functions might be coordination and sponsorship of international meetings, providing a home for *AI Journal*, and sponsoring a meeting of all national presidents every two years. Grosz reviewed the infrastructure needed to launch such an organization, including staff and resources. She also described several models that the organization might take, such as a society of individuals, a society of societies, or an umbrella society similar to ECCAI. The main goals of such an organization should be to reduce fragmentation of the field and to be a service to the national societies.

After a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed that AAAI was willing to donate the coordination of a web site for the purpose of providing a clearinghouse for international information, should the national societies request this. In addition, AAAI will continue to provide some support to international conferences through its conference services, including limited banking services.

CRA Report

CRA Representative Tim Finin reported that two senior members of the AI community were elected to the CRA Board of Directors for three-year terms: Barbara Grosz and David Waltz. Bill Woods, Kathy McKeown, and Tim Finin are already members of the Board. Finin also reported that several members of the AI Community have been elected to the National Academy of Engineering, including Danny Hillis, Ray Kurzweil, and Guy Steele. Lisa Anthony of Drexel University received the CRA Outstanding Female Undergraduate award. Lisa is a research

assistant in the Geometric and Intelligent Computing Lab. Finin presented her award at IJCAI-01. Finin also reported that the CRA released a report entitled Recruitment and Retention of Women Graduate Students in Computer Science and Engineering. The report's goal is to provide a department with practical advice on recruitment and retention in the form of a set of specific recommendations. The CRA released another report, entitled Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented Minority Graduate Students in Computer Science, which contains 25 practical suggestions. Both reports are online at www.cra.org/reports/.

Public Relations Effort

Bruce Buchanan reported that a significant public relations effort was underway to educate the media and lay public about AI. This effort was timed to coincide with the release of the movie, *A.I.*, when the public's awareness of the issue was heightened. Several interviews with AI scientists were coordinated, and a fair amount of press was generated. The Council asked that an archive be made of all the articles. Buchanan noted that more work remained in this area, particularly in building resources for scientists to reference for interviews.

AI Topics

Bruce Buchanan reported that the AI Topics site continues to grow. One of its greatest values is that it reaches students in remote areas, who might not have access to the material any other way. He also noted that the *AI Alert* (see above) had been out for about two months, and was very well received thus far. Jonathan Glick, the AI Topics webmaster, had a booth at IJCAI to heighten awareness of the site and to gather feedback from researchers.

AI Archives

Bruce Buchanan reported that he has continued his search for an appropriate repository for AI materials. Currently, there is no single institute archiving the history of AI as a cohesive field, although several institutions have collections of AI. He noted that the Babich Institute has shown interest.

New Business

At this point, Bruce Buchanan official-

ly turned over the presidency to Tom Mitchell.

AAAI/ACM Allen Newell Award

Carol Hamilton noted that the selection committee for the AAAI/ACM Allen Newell Award is seeking a recommendation from AAAI for a replacement for Raj Reddy on the committee. Bruce Buchanan, who replaces David Waltz as the Awards Committee Chair, agreed to work with Hamilton to identify someone.

Conflict of Interest/Privacy Policy Statement

Bruce Buchanan introduced a sample "Disclosure of Interests" statement. This form, to be signed by all AAAI councilors and officers, requires that they recuse themselves from discussions and votes where a conflict of interest presents itself. The Council voted to adopt a formal policy regarding this issue. Carol Hamilton agreed to have a lawyer review the form before the next meeting.

Buchanan also introduced a written Privacy Policy, intended to protect the privacy of AAAI members. The Council suggested that privacy policy regarding technical submissions be added to this statement. A revised statement will be circulated to the Council for voting.

Voting Procedures

Bruce Buchanan initiated a discussion about approval voting as a possible alternative to the method currently employed by the Executive Council. Given that this would take a bylaws change to implement, discussion was tabled pending further investigation.

Intel ISEF Awards Future

Reid Simmons, who chaired the Intel ISEF AAAI Awards Committee, gave a brief account of his experience at the event in May. He noted that AAAI's awards were far more generous than most in the same category, and wondered if we couldn't accomplish our goals with a smaller financial commitment. He also said that he was unable to spend the full \$15,000 because there were not enough worthy projects. He felt perhaps there were too many awards, and that traditional first, second, and third place awards might be more effective. The Council suggested that he consult with Mel



Editorial

One of the roles of *AI Magazine* is to keep readers informed about the practical impact of AI research. One year ago, articles in the magazine described two robotics challenge domains, RoboCup rescue and urban search and rescue, both designed to promote research related to robotic agents for disaster search and rescue. In the tragic aftermath of the World Trade Center attack, research experiments were replaced by reality as search and rescue robots moved into the field, assisting in the World Trade Center rescue efforts. The current issue includes an article discussing lessons from this experience.

For many AAAI members, the first news of the robot rescue efforts came from *AI Alert*, a AAAI service that distributes selected items from the AI in the News page on AAAI's AI Topics web site. The AI in the News page presents a fascinating snapshot of both practical applications and public perceptions of our field, as reflected in the press. To bring its highlights to *AI Magazine* readers, I invited the AI Topics web master, Jon Glick, to prepare a regular feature with some of its most noteworthy passages. I am delighted that he has accepted, and I welcome him to the magazine. His inaugural contribution, which contains a sampling from significant fall articles as well as more recent news, appears in this issue.

– David Leake
Editor, *AI Magazine*

Montemerlo, who recommended the change to 15 equal awards two years ago. The Council charged the committee with structuring the awards as they see fit within the current financial commitment. Carol Hamilton reminded the Council that AAAI must define the awards in the fall, and commit to that structure for the following spring.

Simmons was also anxious to track the winners after they graduate. A suggestion was made to find out how many of the winners renew their complimentary memberships after one year. In addition, Council members liked the idea of finding out where a student is going to college, and offering them the opportunity to meet an AI faculty member at their college. It was agreed that Simmons would send letters to the recent winners to see if this would interest them. He will also contact a AAAI member at each of the students' respective universities to facilitate the introductions.

AAAI Goals

Tom Mitchell asked the Council members to take a moment to give him feedback about important goals for AAAI in the coming years. Suggestions included reducing fragmentation in the field, promoting AI as an important and coherent area of research, increasing government relations, increasing industry support of AI, documenting success stories, raising visibility and awareness of field through press relations, providing a bridge to other fields, and increasing outreach to students.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.