

# AAAI News



## *Fall News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence*

### Join Us in the Big Easy for AAAI-18, IAAI-18, and EAAI-18!

The Thirty-Second AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-18), the Thirtieth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-18), and the Eighth Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI-18) will be held February 2–7 at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Registration information will be available in early November at the URL above. The cut-off date for hotel reservations is January 3, 2018, but we encourage you to secure your room early. For more information about the AAAI-18 block of rooms at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, please see [www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2018/aaai18hotel.php](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2018/aaai18hotel.php).

The AAAI-18 program cochairs are Sheila McIlraith (University of Toronto, Canada) and Kilian Weinberger (Cornell University, USA). The IAAI-18 conference cochair is G. Michael Youngblood (PARC, a Xerox Company, USA) and the IAAI-18 cochair is Karen Myers (SRI International, USA). The EAAI-18 Symposium is cochaired by Eric Eaton (University of Pennsylvania, USA) and Michael Wollowski (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, USA). For complete information about AAAI-18, please visit the website at [www.aaai.org/aaai18](http://www.aaai.org/aaai18) or write to us at [aaai18@aaai.org](mailto:aaai18@aaai.org). We hope to see you in New Orleans in February!

### AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society

As AI is becoming more pervasive in our lives, its impact on society is becoming more significant and concerns and issues are arising regarding aspects such as value alignment, data handling and bias, regulations, and workforce displacement. Only a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder effort can find the best ways to address these concerns, including experts in various disciplines, such as ethics, philosophy, economics, sociology, psychology, law, history, and politics. In order to address these issues in a scientific context, AAAI and ACM have joined forces to start a new conference, the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society.

The first edition of this conference will be colocated with AAAI-18 on February 2-3, 2018 in New Orleans, USA. The program of the conference will include peer-reviewed paper presentations, invited talks, panels, and working sessions. Papers submitted to the conference should address questions related to any of the above topics with a rigorous scientific approach. We expect papers submitted by researchers of all the disciplines involved. The call for papers will be distributed shortly and will include a submission due date of October 31, 2017.

For further information about this conference, please contact Francesca Rossi at [frossi@math.unipd.it](mailto:frossi@math.unipd.it)

### AAAI-18 Senior Member Track

The Senior Member Presentation Track provides an opportunity for established researchers in the AI community to give a broad talk on a well-developed body of research, an important new research area, or a promising new topic. This track is open to researchers who are a significant number of years away from their Ph.D, have acquired an international recognition, and have established a significant publication record of AI-related research in AI con-

ferences and journals. It is not necessary to be a AAAI Fellow or Senior Member. The track will include two subtracks (summary talks and blue sky ideas talks), and three grants for the best three proposals in the blue sky ideas subtrack will be given by the Computing Community Consortium. Papers are due September 22.

### AAAI-18 Doctoral Consortium

The Doctoral Consortium (DC) provides an opportunity for a group of Ph.D. students to discuss and explore



The Thirteenth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE-17) will be held at the at the Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort in Snowbird, Utah, October 5-9, 2017. AIIDE 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. This year's conference features a special topic — Beyond Games — and will include speakers, panels, and paper sessions that focus on a broad range of complementary areas of interactive digital entertainment.

AIIDE-17 invited speakers include Marc Bellemare (DeepMind) speaking on Modern Reinforcement Learning and the Atari 2600; Mary Lou Maher (University of North Carolina, Charlotte) speaking on Thinking Outside the Box: AI Models of Curiosity; and Jichen Zhu (Drexel University), speaking on Adaptive Media: A Design-Based Critical Technical Practice. The program will also include technical paper presentations, a poster and demo session, a doctoral consortium, and the annual Starcraft AI Competition. The Playable Experiences track will continue

this year with five systems with articulable innovation in the use of AI directly affecting the user's experience, including Proofdoku, Grayscale, Traveler, Unexplored, and Darwin's Demons. The main conference program will be preceded by two tutorials and three workshops on October 5 and 6.

The two tutorials at the conference include Answer Set Programming, presented by Adam Smith and Deep Learning for Interactive Digital Entertainment, presented by Wookhee Min and Pengcheng Wang. The three workshops include Artificial Intelligence for Strategy Games ([skatgame.net/mburo/aiide17ws](http://skatgame.net/mburo/aiide17ws)), Experimental AI in Games ([exag.org](http://exag.org)), and Intelligent Narrative Technologies ([www.di.unito.it/~rossana/INT10](http://www.di.unito.it/~rossana/INT10)).

The full conference program and registration information is available at [aiide.org](http://aiide.org). The late registration deadline is September 15. Onsite rates will be in effect after that date. Preregistration is strongly encouraged. The online registration form is available online ([www.regonline.com/aiide17](http://www.regonline.com/aiide17)), and will be open through the conference period. Onsite registration will be held in the Magpie Foyer on Level B of the Cliff Lodge (October 5-6) and in the Alpenglow Foyer on Level 10 of the Cliff Lodge (October 7-9).

For more information about registration or hotels in the area, please consult the conference website ([www.aiide.org](http://www.aiide.org)), or write to [aiide17@aaai.org](mailto:aiide17@aaai.org).

their research interests and career objectives with a panel of established researchers in artificial intelligence. The consortium has the following objectives: (1) to provide a setting for mutual feedback on participants' current

research and guidance on future research directions; (2) to develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research; (3) to support a new generation of researchers by offering advice about academic,

research, industrial, and non-traditional career paths; and (4) to contribute to the overall conference goals through interaction with other researchers and participation in conference events. Applications are due September 22.

## AAAI-18 Student Abstract and Poster Program

The goal of this program is to provide a forum in which students can present and discuss their work during its early stages, meet some of their peers who have related interests, and introduce themselves to more senior members of the field. The program is open to all students at the Undergraduate, Masters, and Doctoral levels. Abstracts are due September 29.

## AAAI-18 Demonstrations Program

The AAAI-18 Demonstrations Program is intended to foster discussion and exchange of ideas among researchers and practitioners from academe and industry by presenting software and hardware systems and research prototypes of such systems, including their capabilities and workings. Accepted demonstrations will be allocated one time slot during one of the main conference evening poster programs, and will have a short paper included in the proceedings. Submissions from everyone, including authors of paper submissions to AAAI, IAAI, and AAAI-18 workshops, are encouraged. Work submitted to other tracks (such as the Videos Competition) can also be submitted to the Demonstrations Program, according to the guidelines in the Call for Videos. Short papers and video are due September 29.

## AAAI-18 Workshop Program

The workshop program includes 16 workshops covering a wide range of topics in artificial intelligence. The AAAI-18 Workshop Call for Participation is now available ([www.aaai.org/Workshops/ws18.php](http://www.aaai.org/Workshops/ws18.php)). Workshop submissions are due October 13, unless otherwise noted at the individual workshop websites. Submission requirements vary for each workshop. Please consult the individual workshop description for complete information about where to submit your paper and a link to the workshop supplementary website, where more detailed information will be available. Submissions are due October 13.

## AI Video Competition

The goal of the competition is to show

the world how much fun AI is by documenting exciting artificial intelligence advances in research, education, and application. Submissions are due November 15. View previous entries and award winners at the AI Videos Past Competitions page ([www.aaivideos.org/past\\_competitions](http://www.aaivideos.org/past_competitions)).

*New at AAAI!*

## The Winograd Schema Challenge

Nuance Communications, Inc. is sponsoring a competition to encourage efforts to develop programs that can solve the Winograd Schema Challenge, an alternative to the Turing Test developed by Hector Levesque, winner of the 2013 IJCAI Award for Research Excellence. The test will be organized, administered, and evaluated by CommonsenseReasoning.org which is dedicated to furthering and promoting research in the field of automated commonsense reasoning. Contestants should email Charles Ortiz [charles.ortiz@nuance.com](mailto:charles.ortiz@nuance.com) stating their intent to enter the contest no later than January 20, 2018.

## AAAI-18 Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Scholarship Program for 2018, which is cosponsored by AAAI and the AI Journal. The Student Scholar Program provides partial travel support for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the conference program or letters of recommendation from their faculty advisor; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by November 17, 2017. 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.

The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contri-

bution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in New Orleans. In 2018, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to participating students for the volunteer positions. Local students or students not requiring travel assistance can apply for the Volunteer Program if openings are available. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. The deadline for volunteer applications is November 17, 2017. For further information about the Scholarship Program or the Volunteer Program, or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at [scholarships18@aaai.org](mailto:scholarships18@aaai.org).

## HCOMP 2017 Registration Is Open!

Please join us for the Fifth AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 2017), to be held October 24-26 at the the Hilton Quebec and the Québec City Convention Center in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. HCOMP 2017 will be colocated with the conference on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST-17).

HCOMP is the premier venue for disseminating the latest research findings on crowdsourcing and human computation. While artificial intelligence (AI) and human-computer interaction (HCI) represent traditional mainstays of the conference, HCOMP believes strongly in inviting, fostering, and promoting broad, interdisciplinary research. This field is particularly unique in the diversity of disciplines it draws upon, and contributes to, ranging from human-centered qualitative studies and HCI design, to computer science and artificial intelligence, economics and the social sciences, all the way to digital humanities, policy, and ethics. We promote the exchange of advances in human computation and crowdsourcing not only among researchers, but also engineers and practitioners, to encourage dialogue across disciplines and communities of practice.

The main conference, commencing with an opening reception on the evening of October 24, will feature keynote addresses by Niki Kittur

(Carnegie Mellon University) and Emma Brunskill (Stanford University). The main program will be preceded on October 23, by a Doctoral Consortium, and on October 24, by a workshop on Human Computation for Image and Video Analysis (GroupSight), as well as CrowdCamp.

Complete registration and hotel information is available at the conference website ([www.humancomputation.com/2017](http://www.humancomputation.com/2017)). The late registration deadline is September 22, 2017. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Hilton Quebec is also September 22. The discounted room rate of \$219 CAD per night (single/double) will not be available after this date.

## 2017 AAAI Fall Symposium Series Registration

The Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence's 2017 Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, November 9-11 at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. The titles of the six symposia are as follows:

Artificial Intelligence for Human-Robot Interaction

Cognitive Assistance in Government and Public Sector Applications

Deep Models and Artificial Intelligence for Military Applications: Potentials, Theories, Practices, Tools and Risks Interaction

Human-Agent Groups: Studies, Algorithms and Challenges

Natural Communication for Human-Robot Collaboration

A Standard Model of the Mind

An informal reception will be held on Thursday, November 9. A general plenary session, in which the highlights of each symposium will be presented, will be held on Friday, November 10. Symposia generally range from 40–75 participants each. Participation will be open to active participants as well as other interested individuals on a first-come, first-served basis. Each participant will be expected to attend a single symposium. AAAI technical reports will be distributed to participants in electronic format and posted in the AAAI Digital Library

## 2018 Spring Symposium Series Call For Participation

AAAI presents the 2018 Spring Symposium Series, to be held Monday through Wednesday, March 26–28, 2018, at Stanford University. The topics of the eight symposia will be:

AI and Society: Ethics, Safety and Trustworthiness in Intelligent Agents — Francesca Rossi (IBM Watson and University of Padova), K. Brent Venable (Tulane University and IHMC), Toby Walsh (Data61, UNSW and TU Berlin)

Artificial Intelligence for the Internet of Everything — Ranjeev Mittu, Donald Sofge, and Ira S. Moskowitz (Naval Research Laboratory); Stephen Russell (Army Research Laboratory); W. F. Lawless (Paine College)

Beyond Machine Intelligence: Understanding Cognitive Bias and Humanity for Well-Being AI — Takashi Kido (Preferred Networks, Inc., Japan) and Keiki Takadama (The University of Electro-Communications, Japan)

Data Efficient Reinforcement Learning — Haitham Bou Ammar, Dongho Kim, Enrique Munoz de Cote, and James Hensman (Prowler.io, UK); Matthew E. Taylor (Washington State University)

The Design of the User Experience for Artificial Intelligence (the UX of AI) — Mike Kuniavsky (PARC), Elizabeth Churchill (Google), Molly Wright Steenson (Carnegie Mellon University), Phil Van Allen (Art Center College of Design)

Integrated Representation, Reasoning, and Learning in Robotics — Shiqi Zhang (Cleveland State University), Matteo Leonetti (University of Leeds), Mohan Sridharan (The University of Auckland), Jeremy Wyatt (University of Birmingham)

Integrating Representation Computation and Execution for Goal Directed Autonomy — Nick Hawes (University of Birmingham), Erez Karpas (Technion - Israel Institute of Technology), George Konidaris (Brown University), Siddharth Srivastava (Arizona State University)

Learning, Inference, and Control of Multi-Agent Systems — Christopher Amato (Northeastern University), Thore Graepel (Google DeepMind), Joel Leibo (Google DeepMind), Frans Oliehoek (University of Liverpool), Karl Tuyls (Google DeepMind and University of Liverpool)

For additional information, and links to the supplementary websites for each symposium, please see the spring symposium website ([www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss18.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss18.php)). Submissions for the symposia are due on October 27, 2017. Notification of acceptance will be given by November 27, 2017. Material to be included in the technical reports of the symposium must be received by January 23, 2018. Registration information will be available by December 15, 2017. Please contact AAAI at [sss18@aaai.org](mailto:sss18@aaai.org) with any questions.

The final deadline for registration is October 13, 2017. For registration information, please contact AAAI at [fss17@aaai.org](mailto:fss17@aaai.org) or visit AAAI's web site

([www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss17.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss17.php)). A hotel room block has been reserved at the Westin. The cut-off date for reservations is October 9, 2017 at

## Barbara Grosz Honored with 2017 ACL Lifetime Achievement Award

AAAI congratulates AAAI Past President Barbara Grosz, Higgins Professor of Natural Sciences in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard University, on her recent selection for the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL). The award recognizes the work of a researcher who has made sustained and impactful contributions to the field of Computational Linguistics/Natural Language Processing (CL/NLP).

Grosz has made seminal contributions to the fields of natural language processing and multi-agent systems. She established the research field of computational modeling of discourse, and developed some of the earliest computer dialogue systems. Grosz's work on models of collaboration helped establish that field and has provided the framework for several collaborative multiagent and human-computer interface systems. Her current research focuses on exploring ways collaborative multiagent systems, collaborative interfaces and natural-language processing methods can enhance medical care and education.

Grosz received her undergraduate degree in Mathematics from Cornell University and her Master's and Doctoral degrees in Computer Science from the University of California at Berkeley. Prior to joining Harvard as Professor in 1986, she held positions at SRI International and Stanford University. She has also held visiting positions at the University of Pennsylvania, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and Brown University.

Grosz is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a fellow of AAAI, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a corresponding fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

tions for the 2018 AAAI Classic Paper Award, the AAAI Distinguished Service Award, and the AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator Award. The 2018 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Seventeenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 2000 in Austin, Texas. The 2018 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. The AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator Award honors a person (or group of people) who has made major contributions to AI education that provide long-lasting benefits to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-18 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available on the AAAI website ([www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.php)). The deadline for nominations is September 29, 2017. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org).

## AAAI Senior Member Grade of Membership

AAAI is now taking applications from regular members for the AAAI Senior Member grade of membership. This status is designed to recognize members who have achieved significant accomplishments within the field of Artificial Intelligence. To be eligible for nomination for Senior Member, candidates must be consecutive members of AAAI for at least five years and have been active in the professional arena for at least ten years. Applications should include information that details the candidate's scholarship, leadership, and/or professional service. At least two references, one of which must be written by a AAAI Fellow or a current AAAI Senior Member must accompany the senior member application. References should be submitted by colleagues who know the candidate, and are familiar with their work and accomplishments. Each year a maximum of 25 members will be elected to the Senior status. All applications and references must conform to the requirements listed on the form, and must be received by September 29,

5:00pm ET. Please call +1-888-627-7076 (reference AAAI) for reservations, or reserve a room online via the link on the symposium website ([www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss17.php](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss17.php)).

## AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2018 Fellows Selection Committee is currently accepting nominations for AAAI Fellow. The AAAI Fellows program is designed to recognize people who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence over at least a ten-year period. All regular members in good standing are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. At least two

references must accompany nominations. The nominator or one of the references must be a AAAI Fellow who is a current member of AAAI. For further information about the Fellows Program or to receive nomination and reference forms, please contact AAAI at [fellows18@aaai.org](mailto:fellows18@aaai.org). Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI website ([www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php)). The deadline for nominations is September 29, 2017.

## 2018 AAAI Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of several special awards in 2018, and is currently seeking nomina-

2017. For complete details and an application form, please see the AAAI website ([www.aaai.org/Awards/senior.php](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/senior.php)), or contact Carol Hamilton at [seniormember18@aaai.org](mailto:seniormember18@aaai.org).

## First Call for Nominations for 2018 Executive Council Election

The 2018 Nominating Committee is seeking nominations from the AAAI membership for the positions of AAAI President-Elect and Executive Councilor. In 2018, AAAI members will elect one individual to serve a two-year term as president-elect, followed by two years as president, and finally, two years as immediate past president. In addition, members will elect four new councilors to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. All elected officers and councilors are expected to attend all council meetings each year (usually 1-2 in person and 1-2 via telecon), and actively participate in AAAI activities. Nominees must be current members of AAAI. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular AAAI members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. (Student and institutional members are not eligible to submit candidates' names.) The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate two candidates for president-elect and eight candidates for councilor in early spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals in order to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI regular members will vote in late spring, and the new members of the Executive Council will be installed in the summer of 2018.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please send the following information to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 2275 East Bayshore Road, Suite 160, Palo Alto, CA 94303; by fax to 650/321-4457; or by email to [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org):

- Name
- Affiliation
- City, State or Province, Country
- Email address
- URL
- Year of membership in AAAI

- Approximate number of AAAI publications
- At least two sentences describing the candidate and why he or she would be a good candidate

Please include any additional information or recommendations that would be helpful to the Nominating Committee. 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 January 15, 2018.

## AAAI India Chapter Established

AAAI is pleased to announce that the AAAI India Chapter was launched on June 2, 2017 at the Kohli Center on Intelligent Systems (KCIS) auditorium in the IIIT Hyderabad campus. Subbarao Kambhampati, AAAI President, delivered a talk on The Rise of Artificial Intelligence and the Challenges of Human-Aware AI Systems.

The AAAI India chapter plans to promote activities such as monthly talks, technical workshops, summer/winter schools for researchers, courses on AI for K-12 students, etc. These will be held at different places in the country. The chapter also aims to initiate several activities to foster AI research in India as well as its adoption by startups and other industry. More details about the chapter can be accessed at their website ([kcis.iiit.ac.in/AAAIChapter](http://kcis.iiit.ac.in/AAAIChapter)).

AAAI India Chapter officers include Kamalakar Karlapalem, President (Professor, International Institute of Information Technology Gachibowli, Hyderabad); C Anantaram, Vice President (Principal Scientist at Tata Consultancy Services); and Vineeth N Balasubramanian, Secretary (Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad).

If you are an AAAI member and are based in India, follow the instructions at the URL above to activate your AAAI India Chapter membership! If you are not yet a AAAI member, please visit [aaai.org/Membership/membership.php](http://aaai.org/Membership/membership.php) to become one immediately!

For more information on AAAI Chapter activity, or to establish your

own AAAI Chapter, please see [www.aaai.org/Membership/membership-chapters.php](http://www.aaai.org/Membership/membership-chapters.php).

## AAAI Elects Four New Councilors

AAAI is pleased to announce and congratulate the continuing slate of officers and new councilors for the AAAI Executive Council.

President: Subbarao Kambhampati (Arizona State University, USA)

Past President: Thomas G. Dietterich (Oregon State University, USA)

President-Elect: Yolanda Gil (USC Information Sciences Institute, USA)

Secretary-Treasurer: Ted Senator

### Incoming Councilors (through 2020)

Eugene Freuder (University College Cork, Ireland)

Claire Monteleoni (George Washington University, USA)

Cynthia Rudin (Duke University, USA)

Matthijs Spaan (Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands)

In addition to the individuals listed above, eight councilors elected in 2016 and 2017 will continue their terms of service during the coming year. For a complete list, please refer to [www.aaai.org/Organization/officers.php](http://www.aaai.org/Organization/officers.php).

AAAI also thanks the four retiring Councilors, for their dedicated service and generous donations of time. The four retiring members are Sonia Chervova (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA), Vincent Conitzer (Duke University, USA), Boi Faltings (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Suisse), and Stephen Smith (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)