AAAI News

Spring News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

AAAI Announces New Senior Members!

AAAI congratulates the following individuals on their election to AAAI Senior Member status:

Ariel Felner
(Ben Gurion University, Israel)

Martin Michalowski
(University of Minnesota, USA)

Ashish Sabharwal
(Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence, USA)

Ram Sriram
(National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA)

Matthew Taylor
(Washington State University, USA)

Ingmar Weber
(Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar)

This honor was announced at the recent AAAI-18 Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. Senior Member status is designed to recognize AAAI 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.

Congratulations to the 2018 AAAI Award Winners!

Rao Kambhampati, AAAI President, Tom Dietterich, AAAI Past President and Awards Committee Chair, and Yolanda Gil, AAAI President-Elect, presented the AAAI Awards in February at AAAI-18 in New Orleans.

Distinguished Service Award

The 2018 AAAI Distinguished Service Award recognizes one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. The AAAI Awards Committee is pleased to announce that this year's recipient is Peter E. Friedland. Friedland is being recognized for his contributions to the field of artificial intelligence through sustained service nationally in establishing AI R&D at NASA, structuring AI programs at AFOSR, and pioneering service in computational molecular biology.

Peter Friedland's career has focused on interdisciplinary technology research, development, and application with substantial accomplishments in academia, industry, and government. He received his PhD in computer science from Stanford University in 1980 for pioneering artificial intelligence research in the areas of planning, knowledge representation, and expert systems. He applied this work to the then emerging discipline of molecular genetics leading to the creation of a user community of several thousand academic and industrial scientists, and the funding of a NIH-sponsored National Research Resource, BIONET. He also cofounded two companies while at Stanford: IntelliGenetics, the first bioinformatics company, and Teknowledge, the first expert systems technology and training company. Both became public companies in the early 1980s.

In 1987, Friedland joined NASA Ames Research Center to create what became the government's largest and most highly-regarded intelligent systems R&D laboratory. The hallmark of the laboratory was the ability to simultaneously conduct state-of-the-art research while also fielding applications to all of the primary NASA missions and Centers. He left Ames in 1995 to form and lead his third company, Intraspect Software, an early knowledge management systems provider, to the point of 200 employees and over $30M in sales. Intraspect was sold to Vignette Software in 2003, and Friedland rejoined Ames as chief technologist, where he supervised a wide range of technology development activities in emerging areas like nanotechnology. He also chaired several NASA-wide committees and studies in such areas as core competencies for NASA Centers and technology transition from basic research to fielded applications.

Friedland is now an independent technology strategist and consultant with a majority of his time spent as a scientific advisor to the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). His specific areas of emphasis for AFOSR are strategy and tactics for international research investments in all disciplines, and creation of new programs in computer and cognitive science.

Friedland is a Fellow of AAAI, a recipient of the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, as well as the Feigenbaum International Medal for Expert Systems Applications.

Classic Paper Award

The 2018 AAAI Classic Paper Award was given to the authors of the

Congratulations to the 2018 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 were held in their honor during AAAI-18 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Nancy M. Amato (Texas A&M University, USA)

For significant contributions to the algorithmic foundations of motion planning in robotics and computational biology and leadership in broadening participation in computing.

Regina Barzilay (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA)

For significant contributions to natural language processing.

Marie desJardins (University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA)

For significant contributions to machine learning, planning, and multiagent systems, and for exceptional service, mentoring, and teaching.

Kevin Leyton-Brown (University of British Columbia, Canada)

For significant contributions to machine learning for algorithm optimization, and theoretical and practical aspects of computational game theory and market design.

Dinesh Manocha (University of Maryland at College Park, USA)

For significant contributions to robotics and multiagent simulation.

Joelle Pineau (McGill University, Canada)

For significant contributions to reinforcement learning, including planning and learning in complex partially-observable domains, and applications in robotics and healthcare.

Amit Sheth (Kno.e.sis, Wright State University, USA)

For significant and enduring contributions to semantics and knowledge based techniques to transform diverse data into insights and actions.

Gaurav S. Sukhatme (University of Southern California, USA)

For significant contributions in developing novel techniques for designing and understanding large-scale, distributed, networked robotic systems.

paper(s) deemed most influential from the Seventeenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 2000 in Austin, Texas, USA. The 2018 recipient of the AAAI Classic Paper Award was:

> PROMPT: Algorithm and Tool for Automated Ontology Merging and Alignment
> Natasha Noy and Mark A. Musen

Noy and Musen were honored for pioneering ontology matching and integration research, by identifying the specifics of the problem and providing a first innovative solution. Natasha Noy presented an invited talk during the conference in recognition of this honor.

Natasha Noy is a staff scientist at Google where she works on making structured data accessible and useful. Prior to joining Google, Noy worked at Stanford Center for Biomedical Informatics Research where she made major contributions in the areas of ontology development and alignment, and collaborative ontology engineering. Natasha is the immediate past president of the Semantic Web Science Association and is on the editorial noard of several semantic web and information systems journals.

Mark A. Musen, MD, PhD is a professor of biomedical informatics and of biomedical data science at Stanford University, where he is director of the Stanford Center for Biomedical Informatics Research. Dr. Musen conducts research related to intelligent systems, reusable ontologies, biomedical decision support, and open science. His group developed the Protégé system for building and managing terminologies and ontologies. He serves as principal investigator of the National Center for Biomedical Ontology and of the Center for Expanded Data Annotation and Retrieval (CEDAR). CEDAR is a center of excellence supported by the NIH Big Data to Knowledge Initiative, with the goal of developing new methods to ease the authoring and management of experimental metadata using semantic technology.

For more information about nominations for AAAI 2019 Awards, please contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org.

AAAI/EAAI 2018 Outstanding Educator Award

The AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator was established in 2016 to recognize a person (or group of people) who has (have) made major contributions to AI education that provide long-lasting benefits to the AI community. Examples might include innovating teaching methods, providing service to the AI education community, generating pedagogical resources, designing curricula, and educating students outside of higher education venues (or the general public) about AI. AAAI is pleased to announce the 2018 award is being given to Todd Neller (Gettysburg College) for his longstanding dedication and service to the AI education community at large, for curating shared resources, and for advancing and energizing the field of AI education. This award is jointly sponsored by AAAI and the Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence. Todd Neller presented an invited talk at EAAI-18, entitled "Playful AI Education."

Todd W. Neller is a professor of computer science at Gettysburg College. He received his PhD with distinction in teaching at Stanford University, where he was awarded the George E. Forsythe Memorial Award for excellence in teaching. A game enthusiast, Neller has since enjoyed pursuing game AI challenges, computing optimal play for jeopardy dice games such as Pass the Pigs and bluffing dice games such as Dudo, creating new reasoning algorithms for Clue/Cluedo, analyzing optimal Risk attack and defense policies, designing logic mazes, and designing and organizing game and puzzle research challenges for undergraduates.

AAAI-18 Program Committee Awards

AAAI-18 Program Cochairs Sheila McIlraith and Kilian Weinberger recognized the following members of the AAAI-18 Program Committee for their distinguished service on the committee. These individuals went above and beyond the expectations for the role, showing exceptional judgment, clarity, knowledgeability, and leadership in reaching a consensus decision while serving on the committee.

2018 Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award

This award was established in 2003 to honor Dr. Robert S. Engelmore's extraordinary service to AAAI, *AI Magazine,* and the AI applications community, and his contributions to applied AI. The annual keynote lecture is presented at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference. Topics encompass Bob's wide interests in AI, and each lecture is linked to a subsequent article published upon approval by *AI Magazine.* The lecturer and, therefore, the author for the magazine article, are chosen jointly by the IAAI Program Committee and the Editor of the *AI Magazine.*

AAAI congratulates the 2018 recipient of this award, Stephen F. Smith, Carnegie Mellon University, who was honored for sustained research excellence in constraint-based planning and scheduling technologies, deployment of those technologies to a range of significant real-world problems, and extensive service to the AI community that includes significant outreach to related technical fields. Smith presented his award lecture, "Smart Infrastructure for Future Urban Mobility," at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference in New Orleans.

Stephen Smith is a research professor in the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, where he heads the Intelligent Coordination and Logistics Laboratory. He is also cofounder and CEO of Rapid Flow Technologies, an intelligent transportations systems (ITS) technology company that is commercializing the Surtrac traffic signal control system. Smith's research focuses broadly on the theory and practice of next-generation technologies for planning, scheduling, and coordination. He pioneered the development and use of constraint-based search and optimization models for solving planning and scheduling problems, and he has successfully fielded AI-based planning and scheduling systems in several complex application domains. Smith has published over 270 papers on these and related subjects. He recently served as a member of the AAAI Executive Council (2014-2017), is associate editor of the *Journal of Scheduling,* and serves on the editorial boards of *Constraints* and *ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology.* He was elected AAAI Fellow in 2007.

Outstanding Senior Program Committee Member

Jörg Hoffmann (Saarland University, Germany)

Outstanding Program Committee Members

Thomas Buehler (Avira, Germany)

Olivier Buffet (LORIA/INRIA, France)

Robin Burke (DePaul University, USA)

Anthony Hoogs (Kitware, Inc., USA)

Liping Jing (Beijing Jiaotong University, China)

Lars Kotthoff (University of British Columbia, Canada)

Jonas Kvarnstrom (Linköping University, Sweden)

Xiangyuan Lan (Hong Kong Baptist University)

Niklas Lavesson (Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden)

Haiping Lu (The University of Sheffield, UK)

Ifeoma Nwogu (University of Buffalo, USA)

Ingo Pill (Graz University of Technology, Austria)

Anna Rafferty (Carleton College, USA)

Miquel Ramirez (The University of Melbourne, Australia)

Mark Roberts (Naval Research Laboratory, USA)

Francisco Jesus Rodriguez Ruiz (Columbia University, USA)

Michael Schober (Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Germany)

Nisarg Shah (University of Toronto, Canada)

Erik Talvitie (Franklin and Marshall College, USA)

Carsten Witt (Technical University of Denmark)

AAAI-18 Outstanding Paper Awards

This year, AAAI's Conference on Artificial Intelligence honored the following four papers, which exemplify high standards in technical contribution and exposition by regular and student authors.

AAAI-18 Outstanding Paper Award: Chenjun Xiao, Jincheng Mei, Martin Müller for Memory-Augmented Monte Carlo Tree Search

Outstanding Paper Award, Honorable Mention: Juan D. Correa, Jin Tian, Elias Bareinboim for Generalized Adjustment under Confounding and Selection Biases

AAAI-18 Outstanding Student Paper Award: Jakob N. Foerster, Gregory Farquhar, Triantafyllos Afouras, Nantas Nardelli, Shimon Whiteson for Counterfactual Multi-Agent Policy Gradients

Outstanding Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention: Rachel Freedman, Jana Schaich Borg, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, John P. Dickerson, Vincent Conitzer for Adapting a Kidney Exchange Algorithm to Align with Human Values

IAAI-18 Innovative Application Awards

Each year the AAAI Conference on Innovative Applications selects the recipients of the IAAI Innovative Application Award. These deployed application case study papers must describe deployed applications with measurable benefits that include some aspect of AI technology. The application needs to have been in production use by its final end-users for sufficiently long so that the experience in use can be meaningfully collected and reported. The 2018 winners are:

ICWSM-18 Registration Opens in March!

The Twelfth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media will be held June 25 – 28 at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, USA. This interdisciplinary conference is a forum for researchers in computer science and social science to come together to share knowledge, discuss ideas, exchange information, and learn about cutting-edge research in diverse fields with the common theme of online social media. This overall theme includes research in new perspectives in social theories, as well as computational algorithms for analyzing social media. ICWSM is a singularly fitting venue for research that blends social science and computational approaches to answer important and challenging questions about human social behavior through social media while advancing computational tools for vast and unstructured data.

ICWSM-18 will include a lively program of technical talks and posters, invited presentations, and keynote talks by Elena Grewal (Airbnb), Miguel Luengo-Oroz (UN Global Pulse), and Sarita Schoenebeck (University of Michigan). The ICWSM Workshop program will continue in 2018 with up to 13 half-day and two full-day workshops, running in parallel with the 2018 Tutorial Program. Both will be held on the first day of the conference, June 25. For complete details about these programs, please see icwsm.org/2018/.

Registration information is available at the ICWSM-18 website www.icwsm.org/2018/attending/registration. The early registration deadline is April 27, and the late registration deadline is May 25. For full details about the conference program, please visit the ICWSM-18 website (icwsm.org) or write to icwsm18@aaai.org.

AIIDE-18 to be Held in Edmonton, Canada

Please join us for AIIDE-18, to be held in mid-November at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. AIIDE-18 is the next in an annual series of conferences showcasing interdisciplinary research on modeling, developing, and evaluating intelligent systems in entertainment. AIIDE-18 provides a meeting place for academic AI researchers and professional software developers to discuss the latest advances in entertainment-focused AI. The conference has a long-standing history of featuring research on artificial intelligence in computer games. We also invite researchers, developers, and digital artists to share ideas on topics at the intersection of all forms of entertainment and artificial intelligence broadly. AIIDE-18 will feature invited speakers, paper sessions, workshops, tutorials, playable experiences, panels, posters, the Starcraft AI Competition, and a doctoral consortium.

Submissions for all programs are due May 25, 2018. For more information, please visit www.aiide.org, or write to aiide18@aaai.org.

Jocelyn Barker, Amita Gajewar, Konstantin Golyaev, Gagan Bansal, Matt Conners for Secure and Automated Enterprise Revenue Forecasting

Kenneth D. Forbus, Bridget Garnier, Basil Tikoff, Wayne Marko, Madeline Usher, Matthew McLure for Sketch Worksheets in STEM Classrooms: Two Deployments

Richard Hoshino, Aaron Slobodin, William Bernoudy for An Automated Employee Timetabling System for Small Businesses

John F. Kolen, Mohsen Sardari, Marwan Mattar, Nick Peterson, Meng Wu for Horizontal Scaling with a Framework for Providing AI Solutions Within a Game Company

Senthil Mani, Neelamadhav Gantayat, Rahul Aralikatte, Monika Gupta, Sampath Dechu, Anush Sankaran, Shreya Khare, Barry Mitchell, Hemamalini Subramanian, Hema Venkatarangan for Hi, How Can I Help You?: Automating Enterprise IT Support Help Desks

Risto Miikkulainen, Neil Iscoe, Aaron Shagrin, Ryan Rapp, Sam Nazari, Patrick McGrath, Cory Schoolland, Elyas Achkar, Myles Brundage, Jeremy Miller, Jonathan Epstein, Gurmeet Lamba for Sentient Ascend: AI-Based Massively Multivariate Conversion Rate Optimization

Yongqing Zheng, Han Yu, Lizhen Cui, Chunyan Miao, Cyril Leung, Qiang Yang for SmartHS: An AI Platform for Improving Government Service Provision

Special Computing Community Consortium (CCC) Blue Sky Awards

AAAI-18, in cooperation with the CRA Computing Community Consortium (CCC), honored three papers in the Senior Member track that presented ideas and visions that can stimulate the research community to pursue new directions, such as new problems, new application domains, or new methodologies. The recipients of the 2018 Blue Sky Idea travel awards, sponsored by the CCC, were:

First Place: Ana Paiva, Fernando Santos and Francisco Santos for Engineering Pro-Sociality with Autonomous Agents

Second Place: John Laird and Shiwali

Join Us in Zurich, Switzerland for HCOMP-18

The Sixth AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing will be held July 5 – 8, 2018 at the University of Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland. HCOMP-18 will be colocated with the Collective Intelligence 2018 Conference (July 8-9). 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. HCOMP promotes 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.

HCOMP-18 will include technical talks, posters, and keynote talks, including one by Patrick Meier (WeRobotics), who will speak on Digital Humanitarians: How You Can Make a Difference during the Next Disaster. HCOMP-18 will also feature a Works-in-Progress program and a Demonstration program. Submissions for these are due April 16. For complete submission information please see www.humancomputation.com/2018/submit.html#cfp-wip. HCOMP will continue its workshop program on the day immediately preceding the main conference, July 5, and the doctoral consortium on the last day of the conference, July 8.

Registration information will be available in late March at the HCOMP-18 website www.humancomputation.com/2018/attend.html. The early registration deadline is May 4, and the late registration deadline is June 1. For full details about the conference program, please visit the HCOMP-18 website (humancomputation.com/2018) or write to hcomp18@aaai.org.

Mohan for Learning Fast and Slow: Levels of Learning in General Autonomous Intelligent Agents

Third Place: Sridhar Mahadevan for Imagination Machines: A New Challenge for Artificial Intelligence

AAAI-18 Best Technical Demonstration Award

Two technical demonstrations were honored by the Demo Awards Committee as part of the AAAI-18 Technical Demonstration Program. The winners were as follows:

Best Technical Demonstration Award: Jeffrey O. Kephart, Victor C. Dibia, Jason Ellis, Biplav Srivastava, Kartik Talamadupula, Mishal Dholakia for A Cognitive Assistant for Visualizing and Analyzing Exoplanets

Honorable Mention: Technical Demonstration: Beom-Jin Lee, Jinyoung Choi, Chung-Yeon Lee, Kyung-Wha Park, Sungjun Choi, Cheolho Han, Dong-Sig Han, Christina Baek, Patrick Emaase, Byoung-Tak Zhang for Perception-Action-Learning System for Mobile Social-Service Robots Using Deep Learning

In Memoriam

AAAI is sad to report that AAAI Fellow Charles (Chuck) Rich passed away on January 3, 2018 at the age of 66. He served AAAI as an Executive Councilor (1984-87) and as program cochair of the 1998 National Conference on Artificial Intelligence. A professor of computer science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) since 2007, Rich was a pioneer in AI and human-computer interaction. He was also affiliated with the WPI's Interactive Media and Game Development, Learning Sciences and Technologies, and Robotics Engineering programs, and had previously served as a principal research scientist at MIT and a founding member and distinguished scientist at the Mitsubishi Electronic Research Laboratories (MERL).

Rich joined the MIT Artificial Intelligence Laboratory as a research scientist in 1980. At MIT, he founded and directed the Programmer's Apprentice project, which aimed to develop a theory of "how expert programmers analyze, synthesize, modify, explain, specify, verify, and document programs," according to a research overview he coauthored in 1993.

In 1991, Rich joined the staff of MERL, the North American subsidiary of the corporate research and development organization of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation. Located in Cambridge, MERL conducted research in a wide range of fields within electronics and information technology. Rich and his wife, Candace Sidner, a research professor in computer science at WPI, worked in the area of collaborative agents. Their aim was to develop intelligent agents that could provide a unified conversational interface for all the appliances in a home. As part of that project, Rich and Sidner created a software platform called COLLAGEN, an application-independent collaboration manager. The platform, which has had an important influence on subsequent work in dialogue processing, was used to develop a number of collaborative agents, including DiamondHelp, a finalist in two design competitions in 2005. His most recent work with Sonia Chernova, Dmitry Berenson, Anahita Mohseni-Kabir, and Candy Sidner, permits the simultaneous learning by a robot of low level primitive actions and hierarchical task networks with minimal demonstrations.

Rich's research included the Collagen/Disco collaborative dialog manager, an effort at developing and using tools for managing dialog based on the Grosz, Sidner, Lochbaum, Kraus theory of dialog and collaboration; the development in 1995 of the MERL Diamond Park, a social virtual reality world using networked computers; and his most recent work with Sonia Chernova, Dmitry Berenson, Anahita Mohseni-Kabir, and Candy Sidner, which permits the simultaneous learning by a robot of low level primitive actions and hierarchical task networks with minimal demonstrations.

A senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Rich was honored for his early work in artificial intelligence by being elected a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence in 1992.

He held four patents, including one for systems for collaborative interfaces (with Candace Sidner) and over 70 refereed journal and magazine articles and conference presentations. In addition to his service for AAAI, he served as chair of the 1992 International Conference on Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, cochaired the 2010 International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces, and was program cochair of the 2011 International Conference on the Foundation of Digital Games.

For more information, please see www.wpi.edu/news/memoriam-charles-rich-computer-science-professor-and-artificial-intelligence-pioneer.

AAAI-18 Student Abstract Awards

The Student Abstract Program Awards Committee selected two presentations to be honored for the Best Student 3-Minute Presentation Award. These two presentations were among 19 finalists that were presented during a special session at AAAI-18:

Best Student 3-Minute Presentation: Ellis Hoag, Janardhan Rao Doppa for Bayesian Optimization Meets Search Based Optimization: A Hybrid Approach for Multi-Fidelity Optimization

Honorable Mention: Student 3-Minute Presentation: Chengqiang Huang, Yulei Wu, Yuan Zuo, Ke Pei, Geyong Min for Towards Experienced Anomaly Detector through Reinforcement Learning

AAAI Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council was held November 30, 2017 via teleconference. *Attending:* Rao Kambhampati, Yolanda Gil, Tom Dietterich, Ted Senator, David Smith, Blai Bonet, Gene Freuder, Diane Litman, Michela Milano, Cynthia Rudin, Matthijs Spaan, Kiri Wagstaff, Ashok Goel, David Leake, Francesca Rossi, Stephen Smith, Shlomo Zilberstein

Not attending: Sonia Chernova, Charles Isbell, Mausam, Claire Monteleoni, Jennifer Neville, Qiang Yang

Rao Kambhampati convened the meeting at 12:05 PM PST, and conducted a roll call of those present.

General Updates / Transitions

Kambhampati announced that Charles

Isbell will be replacing Lise Getoor as the AAAI representative on the CRA Board, and thanked Isbell for his willingness to serve in this position. Recently, AAAI coordinated and cosigned a statement with CRA, expressing concern about the proposed tax bill and its ramifications for graduate student stipends. Other organizational affiliates of CRA also signed. Kambhampati thanked Steve Smith and the Government/Policy Committee for their help with this effort.

Kambhampati also announced that Shlomo Zilberstein will be stepping down as AAAI Conference Chair after AAAI-18, and reported that Peter Stone will take over for Zilberstein going forward.

David Smith will be assuming his duties as the new Secretary-Treasurer after Ted Senator retires in early 2018, following AAAI-18.

Finally, AAAI recently signed an agreement with Iridescent to help promote their work on "The Curiosity Machine AI Family Challenge," aimed at empowering young people and their families to learn together about artificial intelligence technology in a project-driven, hands-on way. Iridescent, a global STEM education nonprofit, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), AAAI, and NVIDIA have partnered on this learning initiative aimed at exposing underrepresented youth and their families to cutting-edge technologies and encouraging them to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math together. The first session will take place at AAAI-18. Yolanda Gil has been instrumental in making this collaboration happen.

Approval of Minutes

The Council approved the minutes, pending the correction of one typo, of the September 8 meeting, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Future minutes will be circulated within two weeks after a meeting, barring any extenuating circumstances.
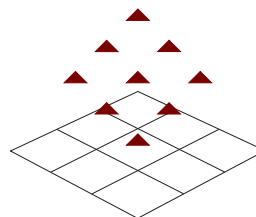
2018 Budget Review

Ted Senator reviewed the proposed 2018 budget with the Executive Council, especially the process that is used to develop the budget each year. The

Join Us in Hawaii for AAAI-19!

The Thirty-Third AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-19) and the Thirty-First Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-19), will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, January 27 – February 1, 2019. The technical conference will continue its 3.5-day schedule, preceded by the workshop and tutorial programs. AAAI-19 will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village situated right on Waikiki. The island of Oahu offers a wealth of things to see and do. Be sure to explore the rich history of the Islands at one of the many museums or historical sites, take a hike in a lush tropical forest, or admire the unparalleled views from the conference site. Hilton Hawaiian Village offers a host of conveniences right on property, but is also close to a full range of shops and restaurants, stretching to Diamond Head at the other end of Waikiki. The 2019 Call for Papers will be available soon at www.aaai.org/aaai19. Please join us in 2019 in Hawaii for a memorable AAAI!

Mark Your Calendars!
2018 Fall Symposium Series

The 2018 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Thursday through Saturday, October 17-19, at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. Proposals are due April 20, and accepted symposia will be announced in late May. Submissions will be due July 20, 2018. For more information, please see the 2018 Fall Symposium Series website (www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss18.php).

AAAI fiscal year matches the calendar year. The overview of the budget figures and process were circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. In addition, cost center budgets were circulated to appropriate committee chairs as well as overviews of their cost centers and significant changes between 2017 and 2018. The annual budget is based on historical programs and trends, with forecasts for known expenses in the coming year. Senator noted that we don't have the final figures for 2017 yet, but that the actuals through September 2017 project a healthy outcome for the year. In addition, our investments are currently worth approximately $11.2 million. With our guideline of 3-5 percent for drawing down the operating reserve each year, we could withdraw over $500,000, if needed. Overall, the financial state of the organization is very good. Carol Hamilton and Ted Senator clarified some questions about the final numbers for AAAI-17, which had a large unexpected surplus. In response to a question from David Smith, Hamilton

noted that some of the program information was incomplete for 2017 because there were several fall events that were not reflected in the September actuals. However, she reported that these programs all broke even or better. Kambhampati noted that, due to the excess funds available, the Council will be reviewing a couple of additional proposals during the meeting.

Gene Freuder proposed that the Council discuss ways to harness the current wave of interest in artificial intelligence. Instead of limiting the opportunities for corporate sponsorship to the conference, he suggested that these be expanded to a broader scope. Ted Senator noted that membership would be an important place to capture additional interested individuals, and of course in conference attendance. Carol Hamilton reported that sponsorship interest is way up this year, and we have a good mechanism for responding to that interest. However, some thought needs to be put into how we want to form liaisons with commercial or industry-focused entities (conferences, initiatives), and what the decision-making process will be for our affiliation with them. Kambhampati asked the Council if we want to get into the business of AAAI cobranded events or conferences. Ted reminded the committee that we need to consider whether affiliations like this would affect our nonprofit status.

Freuder suggested that we might reevaulate the structure of our sponsorship program, and determine it really targets appropriate sponsorship levels, in light of the keen interest in AI. Kambhampati also suggested that our sponsorship solicitation process be broadened to include a larger group of people with established contacts and relationships in industry, thereby broadening the potential base of sponsors. He also proposed that this be a topic of discussion for the February Executive Council meeting. Freuder agreed to draft a proposal for the Council to consider at that meeting. Kambhampati volunteered to remain involved in this, and agreed that the goal should be to have more sponsorship opportunities for interested companies. Yolanda Gil also mentioned that a discussion of the future of IAAI

might be germane to this discussion, as we assess how we handle participation of industry and showcase industry work in AI. Blai Bonet suggested extending the Executive Council to include industry representation, and Ted Senator noted that anyone can be nominated and run for the Council. The Nominating Committee might take a more proactive role in considering the broader community when forming the slate of candidates.

Assuming that there were no further questions regarding the budget, Senator made a motion for the Council to approve the budget. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Budget Amendments

The Council then turned its attention to two pending requests for additional expenditures in 2018.

Increased AAAI-18 Student Scholarship Funds: Carol Hamilton reported that there had been almost a 100 percent increase in the number of applications in the student scholarships. In 2017, there were 123 applications, and about $52,000 was awarded, funded equally by *AI Journal* and AAAI. For 2018, there are 243 applications. Using a similar grant formula, the total amount needed is $97,000. Through a grant from *AI Journal* and AAAI funds, there is currently $54,500 in the budget, so an additional $42,500 is needed for 2018. The planned awards will range from about $350 – 500 per student, excluding local students, who may need less. A portion of the students will receive a complimentary registration if they are accepted into the volunteer program. That number is not finalized, but it is likely to be about 85 people. In response to a question about whether need is considered in the awarding of funds, Hamilton explained that the allocations are based on what the students requests and their geographic location. Because requests vary widely, the awards are tied to a portion of the airfare needed to attend the conference, and are graduated based on distance from the site. In no instance is a student awarded more than what they requested.

Gene Freuder suggested that some criteria be developed to determine whether one group of students has a

greater need than another based on their institution or other factors. For instance, some students may have easier access to travel funds at their universities than others. Hamilton suggested that there would need to be committee involvement for this type of review. Kambhampati noted that there are two current issues to consider: Are we going to increase the scholarship fund for 2018, and, if so, are we going to determine need in the awarding of the additional funds. He asked the Council if they would like to increase the scholarship funding to keep up with the increased demand for 2018, noting that the increase is tied to the much larger conference planned for 2018 because of the 50 percent increase in accepted papers. He also noted that the excess funds available from 2017 could be used to fund this request. Ted Senator moved that the Council approve an amount not to exceed $42,500 to supplement the current student scholarship fund, and Kiri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Kiri Wagstaff also suggested that the Education Committee could assist with applications that might need additional review. Carol Hamilton sought clarification on the procedure for 2018. If the standard formula can be used, no assistance will be needed. If the Council wants to study the applications with more subjective criteria, the Education Committee or another Council subcommittee would need to be involved.

Freuder inquired whether some students are unable to attend the conference because they do not receive their full requested amount. Hamilton thought that this would be rare. The students are warned that the stipends will be small, and they should not plan on the basis of the AAAI being their sole support to attend the conference. Matthijs Spaan noted that students know they will have to attend the conference when they initially submit their papers for review. Paper presenters do get priority, if funds cannot cover all applicants.

Press Liaison at AAAI-18: The second possible budget amendment relates to the engagement of a press liaison for the conference. The 2018 Conference Committee has asked us to explore the

services and related costs for the engagement of Katherine Gorman, who has been helping in this capacity for ICML and NIPS. Hamilton noted that it is likely that the approval process for this would fall to the Executive Committee but it may require full Council approval. The Council was very enthusiastic about this possibility, and was also supportive of it being explored for beyond the conference. Ted Senator noted that this function had been cut from the budget several years ago during major cutbacks. Tom Dietterich commented that his press conference at AAAI-15 was well received, but required significant advanced planning, and that AAAI should continue to provide this kind of service for members of the press who attend the conference. It is important for AAAI to inform the message being given to the press. Shlomo Zilberstein noted that Katherine Gorman is already knowledgeable about AI, and has developed a strategy to address some of the issues that are unique to AI, as well as the current concerns being raised in the media. She can provide advice to our representatives about how to interact with the press and how to present the message appropriately. Gorman runs the "Talking Heads" podcast. Kambhampati asked Hamilton to report on the final proposal to the Executive Committee, and on whether it will be necessary to revisit this with the Council.

AIES Update

Francesca Rossi reported that AAAI and ACM are cosponsoring the new Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society, to be held February 2–3, during the workshop/tutorial days at AAAI-18. AAAI is assisting with budget and logistics. There will be four program chairs — one each from the following areas: AI, AI and Law, AI and Jobs, and AI and Philosophy. 165 papers were submitted for review, which was more than anticipated. Several sponsors have been identified, including BERI, DeepMind, IBM, AAAI, and ACM. The hope is that this conference will fill the gap for a scientific-based conference in the ethics and jobs areas, with peer-reviewed papers. Most conferences in this area tend to be a series of invited

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AAAI Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mailboxes for an announcement of the 2018 AAAI Election. The link to the electronic version of the annual AAAI Ballot will be mailed to all regular individual AAAI members in the spring. This year, the membership will vote for a new president-elect, who will serve a two-year term as president-elect, followed by two years as president, and finally, two years as immediate past president. Members will also elect four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. The online voting system is expected to close on June 15. Please note that the ballot will be available via the online system only. If you have not provided AAAI with an up-to-date email address, please do so immediately by writing to membership18 @aaai.org.

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presentations. The organizers also hope to create a great deal of discussion around the accepted papers and invited panels.

Ted Senator inquired about the registration structure for the conference, and Rossi reported that there will be a separate registration fee for the conference. Carol Hamilton added that the conference is part of the overall AAAI-18 registration form, but is a separate choice. Senator cautioned the organizers that if the conference becomes an ongoing event, they may want to consider a joint registration with the main conference to avoid the pitfalls that IAAI ran into many years ago in trying to remain separate. Kambhampati noted that AIES may not be colocated again with AAAI. It may be attached to another meeting in its next iteration. Finally, because AIES will not launch its registration until at least December 4 (four days before the AAAI-18 early registration deadline), Hamilton will notify all current registrants that they can add it to their registration until January 5. (Senator also noted that this conference conflicts with the next AAAI Executive Council meeting on February 3, so Kambhampati should consider whether the meeting should remain on the 3rd.)

Ethics Committee: Code of Conduct

Francesca Rossi pointed the Council to

the latest version of the Code of Conduct. She noted that it is very lean, and follows the general content and structure of the ACM Code of Conduct. There are some issues that are specific to AI, rather than general computer science researcher conduct. Rossi directed the Council's attention to the section on contributing to society's well-being. The committee stipulated that members should maximize the positive aspects and minimize the negative outcomes of AI research. There are also specific guidelines for crowdsourcing research, stipulating that subjects are compensated at a living wage. There is a section, defining *harm,* which also stipulates that AAAI members should not contribute to the development of autonomous weaponized systems or other technologies whose primary function is to do harm. This is not intended to prevent researchers from engaging in broader research that may end up deployed in weapons research, but to specify that AAAI members should not be developing systems that are specifically designed for this purpose.

Kambhampati suggested that Council members should go to the document and leave comments. He also noted that Senator had specified that this document can be adopted directly by the Executive Council, so we don't want to add complexity or ambiguity that might make it impossible to use

Peter Friedland Receives AAAI Distinguished Service Award at AAAI-18.

*Tod Neller Receives EAAI Outstanding Educator Award
from AAAI President Rao Kambampati.*

this method of approval. Rossi mentioned that the most controversial section is the one that she described above (section one). Yolanda Gil encouraged the Council to include specific language in the document that would provide steps available for an individual to report harassment or discrimination of any kind. Of particular importance is a completely confidential avenue to report the incident to protect other potential victims as well as the current victim. Kambhampati noted that the Code of Conduct should not include mechanisms, but should specify what is considered unacceptable behavior. Once everyone agrees to the Code of Conduct, a second document should address mechanisms for addressing grievances and violations of the Code of Conduct. Ted Senator noted that the Bylaws allow the Council to decide on qualifications for membership, and the Code of Conduct would represent one of those qualifications. Therefore, keeping the document lean is crucial at this juncture. Gil noted that violations of the Code of Conduct may be perpetrated by nonmembers who are attending a AAAI conference, so we may want to have similar expectations for conference attendees. Senator noted that we can stipulate that anyone participating in one of our conferences is automatically a member so that the Code of Conduct would apply to all. Gene Freuder encouraged the Council to formulate a set of specific sanctions for violators that might affect their membership in AAAI, future conference attendance, and possible other consequences. Hamilton reminded the group that we need to be careful about proceeding without thorough investigation, or without involving the appropriate authorities for the situation. Gil suggested that we provide a procedure for victims to register a complaint, and act only as the mechanism to detect patterns. Senator agreed that the Code of Conduct should not specify the enforcement; it should only specify the behavior. Kambhampati encouraged the Council to agree on the Code of Conduct so that it can be communicated to the members as soon as possible. The mechanisms developed to deal with violations will likely evolve over time.

Blai Bonet raised the issue that some members might be hesitant to agree to the code because they might not be sure that they are in compliance with all the guidelines. He suggested that the Code be linked to a specific research (or papers) rather than to all the activities of a specific individual. Kambhampati responded that as a Society we can set certain expectations for the conduct of our members, and that we do not have to get into the fine granularity of specific research by an individual. Senator noted that, like ACM and IEEE, we can require that AAAI members accept the Code of Conduct as a requirement of membership. Keeping the document lightweight will allow individuals to accept the broader interpretation of the code. Authors are already required to comply with the AAAI Publications Ethics and Malpractice Statement before submitting their papers.

Bylaws

Ted Senator reported that there is a current issue with the bylaws. The bylaws state that the officers and councilors

take office at the annual meeting, but the annual meeting is held at the main AAAI conference. When the conference was moved from July to the January/February timeframe, the election and rotation of the AAAI officers and councilors did not change, thereby becoming out of sync with the annual meeting. The election and installation of the officers remained the same to avoid changing the terms of office of the officers and councilors at the time, which the bylaws strictly prohibit.

The Council adopted an amendment to the bylaws to address this situation which stated that the officers and councilors would take office in the summer at a special meeting of the Executive Council. However, this amendment may create an issue with the members' rights to vote on issues, which are exercised during the annual meeting. Senator will work with AAAI's legal counsel and Carol Hamilton to resolve this issue and will bring a proposal for a revised amendment to the next meeting.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Ted Senator and David Smith will be reviewing the wording for the conflict of interest statement, to be signed by all members of the Executive Council, and will present a draft at the next meeting.

AAAI-19 Proposal

Carol Hamilton reported that the Conference Committee had asked her to follow up on the Hawaii proposal to see if it was viable for 2019. After further evaluation, she put together some data for the Council regarding meeting rooms, sleeping room rates, availability, and any challenges that the site presents. She noted that there are only a few places on the Islands that can accommodate the conference, and only two that can accommodate it under one roof. One of them was unavailable over the desired dates. Therefore, she concentrated on Hilton Hawaiian Village. The only significant challenge is the poster space. While it is large enough to accommodate the session, it would create a very crowded space that would have to be shared by exhibitors. With the growing interest from sponsors, this could be problem-

AAAI-18 Audience Hears Kambampati's Presidential Address.

atic. Hamilton suggested converting to a rotating set of poster presentations that would reuse a smaller set of poster boards, and thereby, create less of an impact in the shared space.

Tom Dietterich asked about the capacity for the plenary session because of the recent growth in the conference. Hamilton noted that the plenary room can be expanded beyond 1,300 to accommodate more people in the event that a larger room is needed. Kiri Wagstaff inquired about lower priced housing for students. Hamilton explained (and others agreed) that the hotel's proximity to most hotels, restaurants, and other services in Oahu provides a host of options for students. Wagstaff also expressed concern about the high cost of air travel to Hawaii, although this will be less for some people, depending on their location in Asia, the Pacific Rim, or the West Coast of North America. Kambhampati noted that the Program Chairs for 2019 are quite excited about the possibility of bringing the conference to Hawaii and have indicated that this will be a big draw for people living in Asia and the Pacific Rim. In addition, the International Committee has explored the possibility of having the conference outside of the United States in 2020, 2021, or beyond, and have discovered that there is no good year in the near future because of IJCAI's plans to be in Japan, Macau, and other similar locations. Therefore, Hawaii presents a good com-

promise to move off the mainland, but not encroach on these plans. Wagstaff did note that Alaska and Hawaii are considered foreign travel for some government employees, so approval to attend a conference there will be very difficult to get. Zilberstein mentioned concerns about student travel expenses, and asked if we might consider increasing our stipends to students that year, as well as to possibly secure a bock of rooms at the main hotel or a nearby hotel at a reduced price.
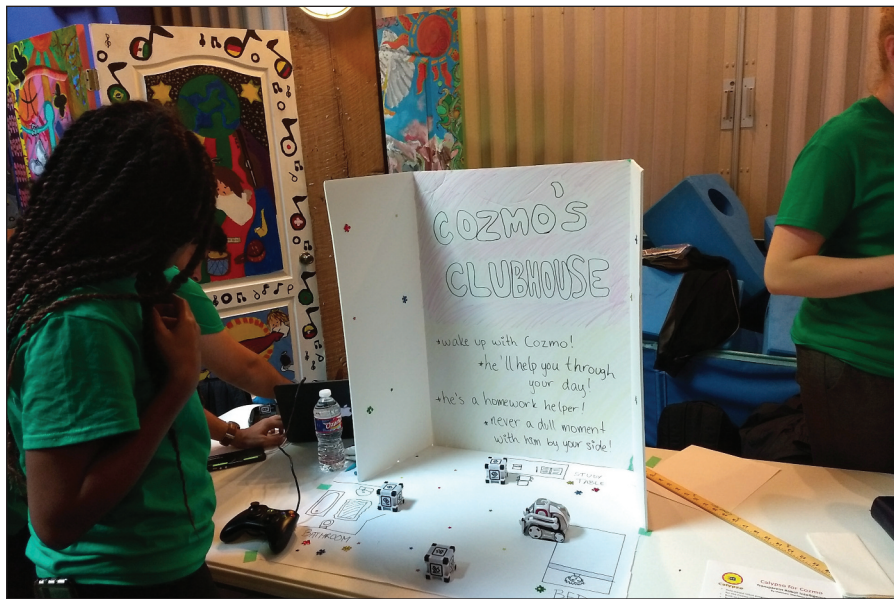
Kambhampati explained that the Hawaii proposal was recommended by the Conference Committee, and asked the Council to approve moving forward with this proposal to the contract stage. Hamilton noted that she hopes to complete this process by mid-December. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Pubications Committee: Transition Update

David Leake set the stage for a more detailed discussion at the next meeting regarding the transition in AAAI publications. Mike Hamilton will be stepping down, and given his significant contributions to the publications process, the transition will require careful thought and planning. Kambhampati asked Leake and Dietterich to chair a task force to explore options for the transition, and the task force includes both members of the publications committee and others who bring

Lunch with a Fellow (Reid Simmons and AAAI-18 Students)

AAAI-18 Student Outreach at Louisiana Children's Museum with Cozmo Robots.

other perspectives to the process. The purpose of the first meeting was to determine the scope of publications appropriate for AAAI to undertake, and to examine the goal that we want to achieve before deciding on the exact mechanism to achieve it. They agreed on the key importance of the *AI Magazine* and proceedings, as well as the importance of increasing the web presence of the magazine. The symposium and workshop reports, which have been carefully crafted for many years, will likely move to a much more lightweight model in the future. The task force also discussed some options for production, and will now begin to evaluate the ramifications of those options in terms of quality, time, and cost. The goal of the task force is to develop a full proposal, to be presented at the next meeting of the Council. Kambhampati reiterated that this will be a huge transition for AAAI because of Mike Hamilton's involvement in all aspects of the publications process from almost the beginning of AAAI. David Leake thanked Mike Hamilton for lending his expertise to the transition process.

Office Update

Carol Hamilton reported that Keri Harvey will be stepping down as Conference Manager on January 5, and that a new Conference Coordinator has been identified. Monique Abed is currently working with Harvey, concentrating particularly on the upcoming AAAI conference. In addition, temporary help will be starting in December to assist with some of the publications and registration processes for the conference.

Conference Committee

Shlomo Zilberstein reported that his next order of business will be the selection of the program chairs for 2020. Kambhampati also drew the Council's attention to a proposal from Tom Kalil (former head of OSTP under Obama) to hold a training data competition at AAAI. Tom Kalil is now working for the Eric Schmidt foundation, and their goal is to facilitate beneficial AI research by helping "liberate" data for different tasks into the public domain (so researchers can then use that data as benchmarks). He is seeking AAAI's assistance in running a white paper competition. The foundation would provide a cash prize to the winning entries. The idea was only recently proposed, so it may be too late to organize something for AAAI-18, but Kambhampati has spoken with both Shlomo Zilberstein and Peter Stone (incoming Conference Committee chair) about

timing. Ted Senator suggested that we also consider Spring or Fall symposium opportunities.

AAAI ACM SIGAI Dissertation Award

Tom Dietterich reported that a draft is ready for a final edit and will have that ready for review for the next meeting, or possibly by email in the interim.

AIHub

Tom Dietterich reported that AIHub is still seeking an additional $20,000 in funding before moving forward. They have a couple of pending proposals out and are waiting to hear back on decisions. Gene Freuder inquired whether the test site was ready for viewing, and Dietterich reported that it is not yet ready.

Education Committee / AAAI Webinars / Membership Committee

Kiri Wagstaff noted that the Education Committee has not launched its first big initiative yet, but has continued to respond to general inquiries that come in from the public or young students. She reported that the next project will be focused on the subject of AI and Ethics, likely to include a special issue of *AI Magazine* and potentially a short email to members pointing them to good resources on this subject.

Kambhampati proposed that AAAI begin a series of webinars, which could achieve over time the same influence as the *AI Magazine* or the potential of AIHub. He noted that this also relates to the idea of moving forward with the AAAI Distinguished Speaker Series that the Membership Committee is spearheading. The previous proposal had been to provide travel funds for speakers to go to various conferences or universities, but providing the opportunity to give a webinar might make more sense and reach more people. Hamilton will make Kapil Patnaik aware of this initiative and ask him to establish the necessary infrastructure as he develops the website.

Gene Freuder inquired about the general charge of the Education Committee, and whether they also handle public engagement. He wondered if we need another committee to concen-

Rao Kambhampati Delivers His Presidential Address at AAAI-18.

trate on outreach to the press and general public via social media and other outlets. Tom Dietterich noted that AIHub will serve an outreach function once it is launched. He also explained that the Education Committee was formed in response to the membership survey, which demonstrated that members were looking for more opportunities for continuing education. Kambhampati added that the webinars would definitely fill a need in the public engagement area. He also mentioned that pieces of outreach activities are being handled by several different committees, such as government, conference outreach, international, membership, and education. Steve Smith mentioned that the charge of the Conference Outreach committee might need to be examined and better defined.

Blai Bonet reported that the Membership Committee has approved the applications for the Distinguished Speaker Series, but the program needs to establish a web page to implement the conference application function. He also inquired about whether the chapters are incorporated and require an Federal Identification Number (FIN) if in the US. Hamilton explained that the AAAI chapters are formed to be affiliated with AAAI, but AAAI does not

have any fiscal involvement with them and they are not legally linked to AAAI. They are essentially interest groups, and do not have any formal connection to the corporation. Kiri Wagstaff wanted to clarify that the committee has the authority to approve or deny requests. Kambhampati confirmed that this is correct.

International Committee

The chairs could not be present, but their recent activity has centered around destinations for the conference after 2019. As noted earlier, they do not recommend going to Asia in 2020 or 2021 because IJCAI plans to be there for two upcoming years. They do think having a Fall or Spring Symposium in Asia is worth considering and they will be sharing more details about that idea soon. Spaan also mentioned that Europe (UK) might be a possibility for the symposia. Kambhampati noted that other destinations would not be for additional programs, but for the relocation of current programs.

Kambhampati thanked everyone for their time and participation, and wished them happy holidays. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM PST.