



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

### **AAAI Adopts Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct and Code of Conduct for Conferences and Events**

The AAAI Executive Council unanimously adopted two new important documents at its recent meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. The AAAI Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is designed to inspire and guide the ethical conduct of all AI professionals, including current and aspiring practitioners, instructors, students, influencers, and anyone who uses AI technology in an impactful way, and is particularly intended to act as a standard of ethical and professional conduct for all AAAI members. Additionally, the Code serves as a basis for remediation when violations occur. The Code includes principles formulated as statements of responsibility, based on the understanding that the public good is always the primary consideration. Each principle is supplemented by guidelines, which provide explanations to assist AI professionals in understanding and applying the principle. This code is adapted from the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct and expresses the conscience of the AI profession.

The Code of Conduct for Conferences and Events sets forth expectations for behavior at all AAAI events and provides a mechanism for attendees to report any behavior that falls outside these expectations. All persons,

organizations and entities that attend AAAI conferences and events are subject to the standards of conduct set forth in this document. AAAI expects all community members to formally endorse this code of conduct, and to actively prevent and discourage any undesired behaviors.

Both codes are available on the AAAI website via the About Us link. The Code of Conduct for Conferences and Events will also be linked directly from all AAAI conference and meeting websites. Please address all inquiries to [aaaiethics@aaai.org](mailto:aaaiethics@aaai.org).

### **AAAI Announces New Senior Members!**

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

*Bo An* (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

*Roman Barták* (Charles University, Czechia)

*Yiling Chen* (Harvard University, USA)

*Cristina Conati* (University of British Columbia, Canada)

*Minh Do* (NASA Ames Research Center, USA)

*Eric Eaton* (University of Pennsylvania, USA)

*Vincent Ng* (The University of Texas at Dallas, USA)

*Marco Valtorta* (University of South Carolina, USA)

*Yevgeniy Vorobeychik* (Washington University in St. Louis, USA)

*Kiri Wagstaff* (Jet Propulsion Laboratory, USA)

This honor was announced at the recent AAAI-19 Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. 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 2019 AAAI Award Winners!**

Yolanda Gil, AAAI President, Rao Kambhampati, AAAI Past President and Awards Committee Chair, and Bart Selman, AAAI President-Elect, presented the AAAI Awards in January at AAAI-19 in Honolulu.

#### **2019 Feigenbaum Prize**

AAAI established the Feigenbaum Prize to recognize and encourage outstanding artificial intelligence research advances that are made by using experimental methods of computer science.

AAAI is pleased to announce that the 2019 recipient of the prize is Stuart Russell, University of California, Berkeley. He is being honored for his high-impact contributions to the field of artificial intelligence through innovation and achievement in probabilistic knowledge representation, reasoning, and learning, including its

## Congratulations to the 2019 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-19 in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Vincent Conitzer (Duke University, USA)

For significant contributions to the advancement of artificial intelligence through integration with economics and philosophy, including game theory, mechanism design, social choice, and ethics.



Luc De Raedt (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium)

For significant contributions to learning and reasoning through the integration of logical and relational representations in machine learning and probabilistic models.



Kristen Grauman (University of Texas at Austin and Facebook AI Research, USA)

For significant contributions to computer vision in visual recognition and search.



Charles Isbell (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA)

For significant contributions to the field of interactive machine learning, computing education, and for increasing access and diversity in computing.



Huan Liu (Arizona State University, USA)

For significant contributions to feature selection and social computing.



Jiebo Luo (University of Rochester, USA)

For significant contributions to the fields of computer vision and data mining, and particularly pioneering work on multimodal understanding for sentiment analysis, computational social science, and digital health.



Peter Stuckey (Monash University, Australia)

For significant contributions to logic programming and constraint programming.

application to global seismic monitoring for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Feigenbaum Prize is supported by a grant from the Feigenbaum Nii Foundation.

Stuart Russell received his B.A. with first-class honors in physics from Oxford University in 1982 and his PhD in computer science from Stanford University in 1986. He then joined the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley, where he is a professor (and formerly chair) of electrical engineering and computer sciences, holder of the Smith-Zadeh Chair in Engineering, and director of the Center for Human-Compatible AI.

He has served as an adjunct professor of neurological surgery at the University of California, San Francisco and as vice-chair of the World Economic Forum's Council on AI and Robotics. He is a recipient of the Presidential Young Investigator Award of the National Science Foundation, the IJCAI Computers and Thought Award, the World Technology Award (policy category), the Mitchell Prize of the American Statistical Association, the Feigenbaum Prize of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, and Outstanding Educator Awards from both ACM and AAAI.

From 2012 to 2014 he held the Chaire Blaise Pascal in Paris. He is an Honorary Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, and Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, the Association for Computing Machinery, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

His book *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach* (with Peter Norvig) is the standard text in AI; it has been translated into 13 languages and is used in over 1300 universities in 119 countries. His research covers a wide range of topics in artificial intelligence including machine learning, probabilistic reasoning, knowledge representation, planning, real-time decision making, multitarget tracking, computer vision, computational physiology, and philosophical foundations. He also works for the United Nations, developing a new global seismic monitoring system for the nuclear-test-ban treaty.

His current concerns include the



## ICWSM-19 Registration Opens in March!

The Thirteenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media will be held at the Conference Center at Kolpinghaus München-Zentral GmbH in Munich, Germany from June 11–14, 2019. 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-19 will include a lively program of technical talks and posters, and invited presentations. The ICWSM workshop and tutorial programs will continue in 2019, and will be held on the first day of the conference, June 11. For complete details about these programs, please see [icwsm.org/2019](http://icwsm.org/2019).

Registration information will be available at the ICWSM-19 website ([www.icwsm.org/2019/attending/registration](http://www.icwsm.org/2019/attending/registration)).

The early registration deadline is April 15, and the late registration deadline is May 10. For full details about the conference program, please visit the ICWSM-19 website ([icwsm.org](http://icwsm.org)) or write to [icwsm19@aaai.org](mailto:icwsm19@aaai.org).



## AAAI Member News

### In Memoriam, Alan Schultz

AAAI is sad to report that Alan Schultz, former Director of the Navy Center for Applied Research in Artificial Intelligence and the Laboratory for Autonomous Systems Research at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, DC, passed away January 20 at the age of 61. Schultz served on the AAAI Executive Council, 2009-2012, and was active in AAAI programs for many years.

Schultz was born in Richmond, Virginia on May 9, 1957. He attended American University where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in print journalism (1979), later earning his MS in computer science in 1988 at George Mason University. During his tenure at NRL, he expanded the research focus areas of the Center, forming NRL's first Robotics Lab. He collaborated with scientists from a host of disciplines and institutions, and eventually served as a visiting research scientist at the Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute. This affiliation led to cutting-edge research in autonomous robotics systems. One of Schultz's earliest robotic projects, a robot named *Coyote*, was featured in a robotic competition at the AAAI Mobile Robot Conference in 1997. *Coyote* interacted with conference attendees, served hors d'oeuvres, and won first place in the competition. In 2002, the robot GRACE, a collaboration with CMU, Northwestern University, MetriCa, Inc., and Swarthmore College, participated in another AAAI competition. This time the robot self-navigated through a conference center to register for the conference and then went to a room where she gave a lecture and answered questions. GRACE received the Judge's Awards for Human-Computer Interaction and for Robustness in Recovery from Action and Localization Errors, as well as the Ben Wegbreit Award for Integration of Artificial Intelligence Technologies.

Schultz was a principal investigator on numerous research projects funded by the Office of Naval Research, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the National Aeronautics Space Administration, and the Department of Energy. He is the recipient of over 20 Navy Special Achievement awards for significant contributions in several scientific areas of investigation and is a recipient of the prestigious Alan Berman Research Publication Award. Over the years, his research focused on the areas of human-robot interaction, autonomous systems, and adaptive systems. Because of his leadership and research, NRL is now a national and international leader in robotics research, dynamic autonomy, and human-computer interaction.

threat of autonomous weapons and the long-term future of artificial intelligence and its relation to humanity.

### 2019 AAAI Distinguished Service Award

The 2019 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 Shlomo Zilberstein. Zilberstein is being recognized for his sustained and conscientious service and

leadership both to AAAI as a councilor and conference committee chair, and to the broader AI community, as the president of ICAPS.

Shlomo Zilberstein is a professor of computer science and associate dean for research and engagement at the

University of Massachusetts Amherst. He received his PhD from the University of California Berkeley and BA from the Technion. He studies the foundations and applications of reasoning techniques that allow intelligent systems to operate autonomously while coping with uncertainty and limited resources, as well as recognize their limitations and obtain human assistance. In collaboration with industry, he has applied his research to developing service robots and autonomous vehicles. He has also worked with social scientists on wider understanding of technology's impact on equity and work. Zilberstein has published more than 250 research papers and delivered numerous talks and tutorials. A fellow of AAAI, he is a recipient of NSF CAREER award and six best paper awards. He is a former president of ICAPS (2010–12), councilor of AAAI (2011–14), and chair of its International Committee (2013–14). A former editor in chief of *JAIR* (2011–12), chair of the AAAI Conference Committee (2015–18), and program chair of ICAPS (2004, 2015) and ISAIM (2006), he is also director of the AI Access Foundation, which facilitates the dissemination of scientific results in artificial intelligence.

### 2019 AAAI Classic Paper Award

The 2019 AAAI Classic Paper Award was given to the authors of the paper(s) deemed most influential from the Eighteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 2002 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The 2019 recipients of the AAAI Classic Paper Award were Prem Melville, Raymond J. Mooney, and Ramadass Nagarajan for their paper Content-Boosted Collaborative Filtering for Improved Recommendations. The authors were honored for showing a way to complement content-based and collaborative filtering approaches in recommendation systems. Melville presented an invited talk during the conference in recognition of this honor.

Prem Melville is the head of Machine Learning at Millennium Management, a leading global investment firm. Prior to that, he was the founder and CEO of Social Alpha, providing social analytics solutions for financial markets. Melville also led machine learning

efforts at IBM Research, where he drove innovation in applications to analyzing unstructured data, business analytics and e-commerce. He has won 10 international awards for his contributions to the fields of machine learning, data mining and natural language processing — including KDD Best Application Paper Awards in 2010 and 2013, and the INFORMS Innovative Applications in Analytics Award 2014. In 2014, Melville cochaired KDD, and currently serves on the editorial board of *Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*. He has also been on the organizing committees of ICML, KDD, CIKM, and WSDM. Melville has a PhD in AI from the University of Texas at Austin, and bachelors degrees in computer science and mathematics from Brandeis University.

Raymond J. Mooney is a professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Texas at Austin. He received his PhD in 1988 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is an author of over 170 published research papers, primarily in the areas of machine learning and natural language processing. He was the president of the International Machine Learning Society from 2008–2011, program cochair for AAAI 2006, general chair for HLT-EMNLP 2005, and cochair for ICML 1990. He is a Fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, the Association for Computing Machinery, and the Association for Computational Linguistics and the recipient of best paper awards from AAAI-96, KDD-04, ICML-05 and ACL-07.

Ramadass Nagarajan is a principal engineer at Intel Corporation where he currently leads the architecture development for next generation datacenter processors. He holds 11 patents and has authored 14 peer-reviewed articles in areas spanning microprocessor architectures and machine learning. His interests include system-on-chip architecture, power and performance optimization, on-chip interconnect architecture and hardware acceleration for emerging workloads. Nagarajan holds a PhD in computer sciences from the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in computer science and engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India.

Classic Paper Honorable Mention Sven Koenig and Maxim Likhachev, authors of D\*Lite, were honored for developing an incremental heuristic search algorithm for robot navigation in unknown terrain that is easy to understand, analyze and extend.

Sven Koenig is a professor in computer science at the University of Southern California. Most of his research centers around techniques for decision making (planning and learning) that enable single situated agents (such as robots or decision-support systems) and teams of agents to act intelligently in their environments and exhibit goal-directed behavior in real-time. Koenig is the current chair of the ACM Special Interest Group on AI (SIGAI) and a fellow of both AAAI and AAAS. He was conference cochair of AAMAS 2018 and ICAPS 2004 and program cochair of ICAPS 2018, AAAI 2015, and AAMAS 2005.

Maxim Likhachev is an associate professor at Carnegie Mellon University, directing Search-Based Planning Laboratory (SBPL). His group researches heuristic search, decision-making, and planning algorithms, all with applications to the control of complex autonomous single- and multirobotic systems. Likhachev obtained his PhD in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University, and has published more than 100 papers in journals and conferences on AI and robotics. His work on the anytime D\* algorithm, an anytime planning algorithm for dynamic environments, was named the Influential Ten-Year Paper at the 2017 meeting of the International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling. He was also selected for the 2010 DARPA Computer Science Study Panel that recognizes promising faculty in computer science.

### AAAI 2020 Award Nominations

For information about nominations for AAAI 2020 Awards, please contact Carol Hamilton at [awards20@aaai.org](mailto:awards20@aaai.org).

### AAAI/EAAI 2019 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



## Join Us in New York for AAAI-20

The Thirty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-20) and the Thirty-Second Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-20), will be held in New York, New York, USA, from February 7–12, 2020.

The technical conference will continue its four-day schedule, preceded by the workshop and tutorial programs. AAAI-20 will be held at the Hilton New York Midtown Hotel. Located in the heart of New York City in Midtown Manhattan, the Hilton New York Midtown hotel is within walking distance from New York's premier attractions such as Times Square, Radio City Music Hall, Fifth Avenue shopping, the Broadway Theatre District, Central Park, The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) and many more iconic New York landmarks. Manhattan's extraordinary cityscape provides a dramatic charge for people of all interests and ages. Beyond Manhattan, New York's five boroughs have five distinct personalities, with their own vibrant cultures, dynamic art scenes and world-renowned shopping and dining.

For complete information about options in New York, please visit [www.nycgo.com](http://www.nycgo.com). The 2020 Call for Papers will be available soon at [www.aaai.org/aaai20](http://www.aaai.org/aaai20).

*Please join us in 2020 in New York as  
AAAI celebrates 40 years of championing AI!*

## 2019 Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award



Milind Tambe,  
*University of Southern California*

The Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture 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 Engelmore'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 *AI Magazine*.

AAAI congratulates the 2019 recipient of this award, Milind Tambe, University of Southern California, who was honored for outstanding research contributions in the area of multi-agent systems and their application to problems of societal significance. Tambe presented his award lecture, *AI and Multiagent Systems for Social Good*, at the Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

Milind Tambe is the Helen N. and Emmett H. Jones Professor in Engineering and founding codirector of the Center for AI in Society at the University of Southern California. He is a fellow of AAAI and ACM, and recipient of the IJCAI John McCarthy Award, ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award, INFORMS Wagner prize, the Rist Prize of the Military Operations Research Society, the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation Homeland security award, International Foundation for Agents and Multiagent Systems influential paper award, Meritorious Team Commendation from the US Coast Guard and LA Airport Police, and Certificate of Appreciation from US Federal Air Marshals Service.

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 2019 award is being given to Ashok Goel (Georgia Institute of Technology) for his sustained excellence in teaching, innovation in using AI to teach AI, scientific

experimentation and scholarship to assess and improve AI pedagogy, and the many resources shared with the community at large. This award is jointly sponsored by AAAI and the Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence. Goel present-

ed an invited talk (Experiments in Teaching AI) at EAAI-19.

Goel is a professor of computer science and the director of the PhD program in human-centered computing in the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology. He conducts research into artificial intelligence and cognitive science with a focus on computational design and creativity. He is the editor of *AI Magazine* and a cochair of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. He is a coeditor of *Blended Learning in Practice: A Guide for Practitioners and Researchers* to be published by The MIT Press in 2019.

### AAAI-19 Program Committee Awards

AAAI-19 program cochairs Pascal Van Hentenryck and Zhi-Hua Zhou recognized the following members of the AAAI-19 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.

#### Outstanding Senior Program Committee Members

Xiang Bai (*Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China*)

Hendrik Blockeel (*KU Leuven, Belgium*)

Zico Kolter (*Carnegie Mellon University, USA*)

Michele Lombardi (*Università di Bologna, Italy*)

Aditya Menon (*Google Research, USA*)

Steven Schockaert (*Cardiff Univ., UK*)

#### Outstanding Program Committee Members

Pascal Bercher (*University of Ulm, Germany*)

Stephen Cranefield (*University of Otago, New Zealand*)

Sheng-Jun Huang (*Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China*)

Dan Malinsky (*Johns Hopkins University, USA*)

Giovanni Sileno (*Télécom ParisTech, France*)

### AAAI-19 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.

The AAAI-19 Outstanding Paper Award was presented to Yonathan Efroni, Gal Dalal, Bruno Scherrer, and Shie Mannor for their paper How to Combine Tree-Search Methods in Reinforcement Learning. Noam Brown and Tuomas Sandholm received an Outstanding Paper Honorable Mention for their paper Solving Imperfect-Information Games via Discounted Regret Minimization.

The AAAI-19 Outstanding Student Paper Award was presented to Mike Wu, Milan Mosse, Noah Goodman, and Chris Piech, for their paper Zero Shot Learning for Code Education: Rubric Sampling with Deep Learning Inference. Shayegan Omidshafiei, Dong Ki Kim, Miao Liu, Gerald Tesauro, Matthew Riemer, Chris Amato, Murray Campbell, and Jonathan How received an Outstanding Student Paper Honorable Mention for their paper Learning to Teach in Cooperative Multiagent Reinforcement Learning.

### Student Abstracts Awards

Each year AAAI honors its student abstract presenters with two awards: the Best 3-Minute Presentation and the Best Poster. In 2019, there were 19 finalists selected to compete for the best 3-Minute Presentation from among a field of 90 student abstracts. The finalists presented oral spotlight presentations during the first day of the technical conference. The winners were Zhiwei Zeng, Chunyan Miao, Cyril Leung, Zhiqi Shen, and Jing Jih Chin, for Computing Argumentative Explanations in Bipolar Argumentation Frameworks; and Michal Zajac, Konrad Zolna, Negar Rostamzadeh, and Pedro Pinheiro for Adversarial Framing for Image and Video Classification.

The winner of the best poster award, selected through an online conference-wide poll, was presented to Raghav Kapoor, Yaman Kumar, Kshitij Rajput,

Rajiv Ratn Shah, Ponnurangam Kumaraguru, and Roger Zimmermann, for Mind Your Language: Abuse and Offense Detection for Code-Switched Languages.

### IAAI-19 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 five 2019 winners were A Genetic Algorithm for Finding a Small and Diverse Set of Recent News Stories on a Given Subject: How We Generate AAAI's AI-Alert, by Joshua Eckroth and Eric Schoen; Large Scale Personalized Categorization of Financial Transactions by Christopher Lesner, Alexander Ran, Marko Rukonic, and Wei Wang; Transforming Underwriting in the Life Insurance Industry by Marc Maier, Hayley Carlotto, Freddie Sanchez, Sherriff Balogun, and Sears Merritt; Automated Dispatch of Helpdesk Email Tickets: Pushing the Limits with AI by Atri Mandal, Nikhil Malhotra, Shivali Agarwal, Anupama Ray, and Giriprasad Sridhara; and Grading Uncompilable Programs by Rohit Takhar and Varun Aggarwal.

### Special Computing Community Consortium Blue Sky Awards

AAAI-19, 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 winners received 2019 Blue Sky Idea travel awards, sponsored by the CCC.

Pat Langley was awarded first place for Explainable, Normative, and Justified Agency. Francesca Rossi and Nicholas Mattei were awarded second



*HCOMP-19*  
*28-30 October 2019*

## Submissions for HCOMP-19 Are Due in June!

The Seventh AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 2019) will be held October 28–30 at Skamania Lodge in Washington State near the Columbia Gorge River, just 45 minutes from Portland, Oregon. This year is the 10-year anniversary of the very first HCOMP workshop in Paris, and to celebrate, there will be special events, talks, and panels throughout the conference.

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.

This year, work that generates new insights into the human computation side of HCOMP, such as new understandings about human cognition, human-in-the-loop intelligence systems, human-AI interaction and collaboration, algorithmic and interface techniques for augmenting human abilities to perform tasks, and other issues that affect how humans collaborate with AI systems (such as bias, fairness and interpretability), is encouraged.

Technical abstract submissions are due June 3, followed by full papers on June 5. For complete information about the conference, please see [www.humancomputation.com](http://www.humancomputation.com), or write to [hcomp19@aaai.org](mailto:hcomp19@aaai.org).

place for Building Ethically Bounded AI. The third place award went to Barry Smyth for Recommender Systems: A Healthy Obsession.

## AAAI Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mailboxes for an announcement of the 2019 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 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 membership19@aaai.org.

## AAAI Executive Council Meeting Minutes

The AAAI Executive Council met via teleconference on September 24, 2018.

*Attending:* Yolanda Gil, Rao Kambhampati, Bart Selman, Tom Dietterich, David Smith, Cristina Conati, Eric Eaton, Gene Freuder, Ashok Goel, Ayanna Howard, David Leake, Mausam, Michela Milano, Claire Monteleoni, Ariel Procaccia, Steve Smith, Matthijs Spaan, Peter Stone, Kiri Wagstaff, Carol Hamilton.

*Not Attending:* Blai Bonet, Charles Isbell, Diane Litman, Jennifer Neville, Cynthia Rudin (via email), Qiang Yang.

Rao Kambhampati called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM, explaining the transition to new members of the Executive Council, and turned the meeting over to Yolanda Gil, the incoming president of AAAI.

### Approval of Minutes

Gil drew the Council's attention to the minutes of the last meeting on July 26, 2018, which had been circulated for edits and approval prior to the meeting. There being no further edits, the minutes were approved as submitted.

## Welcome to New Officers and Councilors, and Thanks to Retiring Officers and Councilors

Gil noted that the announcement of the new Council members had been delayed until the time of this meeting when their transition onto the Council would be official. She welcomed the new members of the Council: Cristina Conati, Eric Eaton, Ayanna Howard, and Ariel Procaccia, all of whom introduced themselves. Gil also congratulated Bart Selman, the new President-Elect of AAAI.

Gil then took a moment to thank Rao Kambhampati for his leadership as president of AAAI, noting his special efforts in expanding AAAI's international outreach and membership, growing the conference, and serving as a great spokesperson for the field. She also thanked Tom Dietterich, who is stepping down as past president, for always going above and beyond in serving the organization during the last six years. She noted that he tackled some significant issues during his tenure, and always has a tremendous sense of the importance of AAAI and its role in the greater AI community. Kambhampati added that Dietterich had been a valuable source of information to him during his time as president, and thanked him for all his work with the organization and the wider AI community.

Gil also thanked the four outgoing councilors: Charles Isbell, Diane Litman, Jennifer Neville, and Kiri Wagstaff. Gil noted that Charles Isbell will continue as the AAAI Liaison to the Computing Research Association. She thanked Kiri Wagstaff for her special efforts on the Education and Membership Committees, and asked Kiri to say a few words about her time on the Council.

### Council Responsibilities

David Smith, AAAI Secretary-Treasurer, noted that a message had been sent to the new councilors regarding the structure of the Council and councilor responsibilities. Smith reviewed a few of the points with the full Council. In particular, he stressed that the members of the Executive Council are members of the board of a corporation, and

are therefore bound by some legal responsibilities, including duties of care, loyalty, and obedience. He explained the meaning of each of these terms, and referred new members to the references included in the message sent to them. He also encouraged all councilors to read the AAAI Bylaws and be familiar with their content.

### Committee Opportunities

Gil gave an overview of the committees, and referred people to two documents describing the committees and listing who is currently on the committees. She noted that some AAAI committees are standing committees, as defined in the bylaws, but that ad hoc committees are also often formed to study special or short-term issues. A few committees are staffed by invitation only, but most are open to and welcome councilor involvement. Gil invited the current members of the Council to introduce themselves and state which committees they chair or serve on. The chairs of the committee gave brief summaries of the primary focus of each of their committees.

### Conference Report

Peter Stone gave a brief summary of the current status of the 2019 conference. After 7,745 initial submissions, there were currently about 5,960 papers being reviewed. The bulk of the attrition was due to authors who submitted abstracts, but did not follow up with papers. However, Stone mentioned that he had suggested that the program chairs be fairly aggressive about summary rejects. This status was given to papers that were determined to have no chance of being accepted for AAAI, and Stone was confident that the area chairs (AC) and senior program committee members (SPC) could make this determination with high reliability. The program chairs also double-checked all papers in this category, and if an AC, SPC, or program chair disagreed with the summary reject, the paper was put back into the review process. About 3 percent of the papers were rejected through the summary reject process before the review process began, and were accompanied by a brief statement explaining the reason for the rejection. There have been

some complaints, which the program chairs are carefully reviewing. Stone noted that the summary reject process is critical because of the large number of submissions, and the conference committee may want to review how aggressive we want to be about applying it. Stone also mentioned that some authors appreciate the process because it allows them to revise the paper and send it to the next conference quickly, rather than waiting until the end of the review process because of the prohibition on dual submissions. Aside from the paper review process, Stone reported that everything else is progressing smoothly and full reports will be given at the conference.

Kambhampati noted that with such a small number of summary rejections, the negative publication perception of the process might outweigh any time-saving benefits. He encouraged Stone to discuss it with the conference committee for feedback. Mausam reported that he felt the process was well-structured with several sets of eyes overseeing the process, but felt that not all SPC members participated in the process and that there was very little time to execute it. Matthijs Spaan agreed that it was a good idea, but suggested that more advance warning of the window to identify summary rejects might be useful and more productive in the future.

### Retiring Council Member Reflections

Tom Dietterich shared a document with the Council that he had put together at the beginning of his presidency, which outlined his strategic plan and thoughts for the future. He noted that he ran a focus group at AAAI-15 conference and followed that up with a survey to the membership. The number one request from the survey was for AAAI to provide more educational opportunities, including things like the distinguished speaker program and continuing education programs. In addition, educational outreach to K-12 and college-level support. In response to that, the Education Committee was created, and Dietterich's hope is that the committee will continue to do more programs in that space. He also noted that we should ensure that the AAAI office has the

staff and support to deal with the heightened interest in AI and the explosion of technical paper submissions.

Kiri Wagstaff thanked everyone for the opportunity to participate on the Council. She encouraged new members to find something that they are very interested in and work to make that happen. It is often hard to take the huge volume of ideas and make them come to fruition unless some decides that they are going to shepherd a project through to completion.

### Incoming Council Member Interests and Goals

Bart Selman noted that this is a very exciting time for AI and AAAI, with AI moving rapidly into society and the real world. With industry and government interest, as well as expanded funding opportunities, this is a unique time when AAAI can broaden its role and establish itself as a point of information and advice for many organizations on how to proceed with AI. Selman is very interested in the ethics and impact of AI, and encouraged the Council to draw on member and Council expertise to provide information to the general community.

Cristina Conati's work is interdisciplinary in the fields of AI and human-centered interaction (HCI). She is encouraged by all that AAAI is doing in that space and hopes to expand AAAI's work in that area. She would like to strengthen ties to other conferences that encourage work focussing on AI and its application to a specific area, such as education. She is also interested in exploring ways to deal with the explosion of technical paper submissions and the need for good reviewers to preserve the high quality of the AAAI review process. Finally, she would like to work on providing accurate information to the public about AI.

Eric Eaton also expressed his interest in the connection between AI and other areas as well as other disciplines, such as medicine, law, or finance. He noted the opportunity to market these as successes of AI to the public, as well as creating educational opportunities and helping to bridge between AI and other disciplines. Educational opportu-

nities might include work in continuing education, but also offering brief tutorials in specific application areas by experts in the fields.

Ayanna Howard noted her interest in the social implications of AI as a result of its use in society, correlating that with the social responsibility we have to think about the implications about what we are doing, and to teach our students to do the same. She is also committed to the issues of access and inclusiveness in what we do, and to fostering the K-12 and undergraduate spaces. She noted that the people who are designing the systems for the future need to be representative of the entire world — not just the world we live in.

Ariel Procaccia would like AAAI to lead the way in communicating with the public and correcting the misinformation that is generated. He would also like to see AAAI point journalists to qualified AI scientists for their research. He suggested that subsets of people in the community could write opinion pieces. Procaccia noted that Carnegie Mellon is starting an AI major, and he has served on the committee to develop that curriculum. He has thought a lot about AI education, and has found that even the most basic AI course still needs to be defined well, and this could provide a huge service to the community.

Gil welcomed and congratulated all the new councilors, and encouraged retiring councilors to continue to participate in AAAI activities.

### Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

Gil reminded the Council of the importance of these two documents, and the need for them. In addition to creating a mechanism to deal with potential issues that might arise at a AAAI event, we also need to establish AAAI member guidelines for ethical behavior in the light of the explosion of AI research and development throughout the world. Gil reviewed the development of the current documents, and reasons for the current course that the Ethics Committee has taken.

David Smith noted that the Council had been discussing the AAAI Member

Code of Conduct, developed by the Ethics Committee. In the recent review of this document and after feedback from legal counsel, Gil and Smith decided to separate it into several pieces. The current documents under consideration are a Code of Conduct, a Code of Conduct for Conferences and Events, a AAAI Ethics Enforcement Policy, and a Conflict of Interest Policy for Executive Council Members and Officers. To expand the Code of Conduct beyond what had been discussed earlier, they looked at the ACM Code of Conduct. They found it to be more comprehensive, with a more positive tone. They proposed that the Council adopt that Code, changing it minimally to meet the needs of AAAI. ACM has already drawn up guidelines for this kind of adoption by other groups, so the process is relatively simple.

The Code of Conduct for Conferences and Events is based on another similar code adopted by a sister conference, with several links to other codes now in use. The Conflict of Interest policy is related but separate from the other documents in that it only applies to the members of the Executive Council. Although this was not required at the time that AAAI was incorporated, it is now and each year the tax return includes a question about its existence. Although the IRS is primarily concerned with financial conflicts of interest, AAAI has included additional wording about conflicts of interest due to other professional commitments.

Smith asked the Council for feedback on the path that the committee is taking in separating the documents and also modeling the Code of Conduct after that of ACM. Carla Monteleone suggested that the committee also look at the recent documents published by NIPS and ICML for the Code of Conduct for Conferences and Events. Gil asked if the NIPS and ICML documents differ widely from the ACM Code of Conduct. Gil noted that the joint NIPS-ICML document is primarily an Event Code of Conduct, so it was reviewed by the AAAI committee in that context rather than in the broader Code of Conduct/Ethics for society members. The latter document deals with all kinds of conduct in the broader field of computing. Given that

AI is now so prevalent in all types of computing and computer science departments, it makes sense for AAAI to adopt a similar Code of Conduct. ACM formed a task force to study professional ethics, and as noted earlier, engaged legal counsel to carefully review the role of a professional society in publishing a code of ethics.

Gil suggested that the Council consider the four documents separately, concentrating first on the AAAI Code of Conduct for society members. She noted that this document is much broader than the one originally drafted by the Executive Council, and takes a more educational tone, listing things that people should strive to do. Ariel Procaccia noted that there are possibly two ways to present a Code of Conduct — one being as a means to state a position about what the society believes in, and the other being to present a code that, if violated, will result in disciplinary action.

Gil noted that people may have varying opinions about what is ethical, and the tone of the current document addresses ethical behavior without being dogmatic. Promoting good uses of technology and honest behavior by members is the primary focus, rather than outlining behavior that would result in expulsion from AAAI.

The AAAI legal counsel advised, however, that it is important to have a policy for dealing with infractions if we publish a Code of Conduct, and that we need to be prepared to act and act consistently. Otherwise, the organization becomes liable, which is the reason why the committee also created the AAAI Ethics Enforcement Policy.

David Smith also noted that doing nothing will also expose the organization to liability should a member behave inappropriately at a conference or with regard to publications. He emphasized that all current documents will require legal review, but that AAAI may be open to legal repercussions with or without these documents in place.

Cristina Conati supported the committee's plan to adopt the ACM policy, given the fact that they spent a long time considering all issues and perspectives before finalizing their documents. She emphasized that the ACM

wording increases awareness of what to strive for, which is a reasonable goal for these documents. Matthijs noted that some of the language seemed unrelated to AI practices and research, and wondered if language could be substituted that would be more specific to AI.

Rao Kambhampati wondered if the ACM document was written earlier than some other similar documents, and does not reflect the current feeling that these documents should be more specific in nature, and less aspirational in tone. He suggested that adopting the ACM code may not be consistent with the current trend, and that the tone of the document drafted by the Council in February addresses this need.

Tom Dietterich reminded the group that the NIPS/ICML documents are specifically about events, so they cannot be compared with the general Code of Conduct for society members. Gil noted that the ACM Code of Conduct was adopted in June 2018, so it is recent and actually supercedes much of what was contained in the draft put together by the Council in February. While addressing many of the same points, it supplements that draft with additional clauses about important issues, such as ethics in the review process.

Gil then turned the Council's attention to the Code of Conduct for Conferences and Events. She noted that she had referred to numerous similar documents by other conference, societies, and other organizations. A list of pointers to these organizations is included at the bottom of the document. She reminded the group that complaints have already been received and that it is important to have a document in place outlining what our position is on acceptable and unacceptable behaviors, as well as a means of reporting them. She asked the members of the Council if anyone would like to work on revisions, or if they felt it was fine as is.

Conati felt that there were a few points that needed further specification. This would be particularly important for individuals who are tasked with enforcing the policy via the Ethics Enforcement Policy. Gil suggested that giving examples might be appropriate,

but that the general language of the main document should be less specific in nature because of individual interpretations of what is appropriate and what is not.

Mausam also noted that the document does not differentiate between a personal offense and rigorous scientific questioning. He suggested that the document could encourage individuals to communicate their discomfort at the time of the incident so that the offending party is immediately aware of their transgression and has the opportunity to correct their behavior. Gil pointed out some language in the document that addresses these concerns. She also referred to passages in the document that refer to “aggressive or intimidating questioning or verbal attacks,” which could certainly not be considered legitimate conference behavior.

Kiri Wagstaff noted that the bulleted list is clearly an enumeration of several types of harassment, and would not be confused with scholarly or profession conference behavior. Several suggestions were made for wordsmithing, which the Ethics Committee will consider for the final document.

Gil reviewed the purpose of the Conflict of Interest document, which is to acknowledge conflicts among Council members and establish a process to address them. Eric Eaton had questions about the scope of conflicts of interest, which David Smith addressed. The policy only applies to situations where a Council member has a direct involvement in a decision regarding a specific conflict.

The greatest concern was expressed regarding the Ethics Enforcement Policy, which called for very detailed and extensive procedures for investigating infractions. Council members were particularly concerned with the fact that they might be asked to make judgments that might be beyond their scope of expertise, and that the process for decision-making called for a great deal of discretion and subjectivity. Gil also noted that the process could be quite onerous for AAAI officers.

Gil asked the Council if there was any objection from the Council to the adoption of (1) the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Behavior with

minor modifications, (2) the proposed AAAI Code of Conduct for Events and Conferences with minor modifications, (3) the AAAI Conflict of Interest Policy as is or with minor modifications, and (4) a revised short document or new paragraph in the Code of Conduct for Events and Conferences, stating that violations will be brought to the attention of the Council, who will decide on a case by case basis how to proceed, using the AAAI Bylaws as a guideline. Modifications would be made by a small subcommittee specifically tasked with this process, and revised documents would be circulated to the Council for a vote. Gil asked if David Smith and Cynthia Rudin would remain on the committee, and also asked Cristina Conati, Matthijs Spaan, and Mausam to join the committee, and work together to polish the documents. Mausam noted, and David Smith agreed, that a lawyer should look at the final proposed documents. Kambhampati wondered if there was someone in the community with legal expertise who could serve on the committee. There were no objections to this proposed process.

### Publications Update

David Leake reported that the upgrade to the Open Journal Systems announced at the last Council meeting has now been completed. The upgrade provides more flexibility in role definition and assignments, as well as several other important features. Leake is chairing a transition committee with Tom Dietterich to map out roles and procedures for AAAI publications with a change in personnel during the next 18 months. Mike Hamilton has been investigating several vendors who could handle the production of the *AI Magazine*, as well as the AAAI conference proceedings and other publications. The search for a publications managing editor is still in process, and is expected to be more successful once all the production mechanisms are in place. The size of the proceedings has resulted in increased costs, and in the long term, the Publications Committee will be examining this impact as well.

Ashok Goel has prepared a proposal for an interactive version of *AI Magazine*, which has been under discussion

for about two years. He will share that with the current Council, and would like to discuss it further at the next meeting. He noted that the interactive magazine has been put on hold during the transition in the publications process, but shared a few comments. The new format will require a significant effort, which will in turn require significant resources, including a full-time staff member, and a half-time person to work at the editor's home institution. Gil expressed her support for the additional staff in the publications area. There being no objection from the Council, she suggested that Goel begin to draft job descriptions for these additional staff members. She asked David Smith to investigate the financial impact of this plan.

Goel also encouraged the new and current councilors to contribute opinion pieces or other articles to *AI Magazine*, noting that he has launched a new column in the magazine specifically for members of the Executive Council. Contributions should be 1,000-1,500 words.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.