

# AAAI News

*Winter News from the  
American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

## AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2004 Fellows Selection Committee is currently accepting nominations for AAAI Fellow. The AAAI Fellows program is designed to recognize people who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence over at least a ten-year period. All regular members in good standing are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. Two references must accompany nominations. The nominator or one of the references must be an AAAI Fellow who is a current member of AAAI. For further information about the Fellows Program or to receive nomination and reference forms, please contact AAAI at 650-328-3123; by fax at 650-321-4457; or by e-mail at [fellows04@aaai.org](mailto:fellows04@aaai.org). Nomination materials are also available on the AAAI web site at [www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.html](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.html). The deadline for nominations is February 13, 2004.

## 2004 Special Award Nominations

AAAI is seeking nominations for the 2004 AAAI Classic Paper Award, the AAAI Distinguished Service Award, and the AAAI Effective Expository Writing Award. The 2004 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Fourth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 1984 in Austin, Texas. The 2004 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary

service to the AI community. The 2004 AAAI Effective Expository Writing Award will honor the author(s) of a high quality, effective piece of writing, accessible to the general public or to a broad AI audience (not just a sub-area), written within the last two years. The contribution should be based on sound science, interesting ideas or systematic review, with non-trivial content, but the award is primarily for the exposition.

All awards will be presented at AAAI-04 in San Jose, California, and will include a certificate and \$2,500. Complete nomination information, including nomination forms, is available at [www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.html](http://www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.html). The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2004. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org).

## AAAI Local Chapter Program

AAAI is currently seeking applications from members, who wish to organize chapters in their communities. AAAI chapters should promote an increased knowledge of, and greater interest in, artificial intelligence by professionals in the field; increased communication among persons having an interest in AI; and greater awareness of artificial intelligence and its potential in the chapter's community at large.

For more information on AAAI Chapters, or for an application, please see [www.aaai.org/Membership/membership-chapters.html](http://www.aaai.org/Membership/membership-chapters.html) or write to Carol Hamilton at [hamilton@aaai.org](mailto:hamilton@aaai.org).

## AAAI-04 / IAAI-04

Mark your calendars now for AAAI-04! The Nineteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-04) will be held July 25-29, 2004, at the San Jose Convention Center in Acapulco, Mexico. The Sixteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence will be collocated with AAAI-04, and will be held July 27-29. The program is already quite full, and includes:

- AAAI-04 Tutorial Forum (July 25-26)
- AAAI-04 Workshop Program (July 25-26)
- AAAI-04 Student Abstract & Poster Program (July 28)
- Tenth AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium (July 25-26)
- AAAI Intelligent Systems Demonstrations (July 27-29)
- AAAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition (July 27-29)

The following are a few important deadlines to note on your calendar:

- *January 20:* AAAI-04 / IAAI-04 Electronic technical paper submission due; AAAI-04 Student Abstracts due.
- *January 23:* AAAI-04 Hard copy title page submission due.
- *February 6:* SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Consortium applications due.
- *February 20:* IS Demos Proposals due.
- *March 12:* AAAI-04/IAAI-04 Notifications to authors.
- *April 6:* AAAI-04/IAAI-04 Camera-ready copy due.

Please check the AAAI-04 web site ([www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2004/aaai04.html](http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/2004/aaai04.html)) for further information about the programs listed above and for conference registration materials. Information is also available by writing to [aaai04@aaai.org](mailto:aaai04@aaai.org).

## AAAI-04 Workshop Program

The following sixteen workshops have been chosen for inclusion in the AAAI-04 Workshop Program. The workshops will be held Sunday and Monday, July 25-26 in San Jose, California. Please consult the AAAI-04 web site for more

## New AAAI E-Mail Addresses

In an effort to reduce the amount of spam that we receive, AAAI will be modifying its e-mail addresses effective immediately. Old e-mail addresses will be shut down by January 1, 2004, so please make a note of the following new e-mail addresses (all of which end in @aaai.org):

*AAAI-04 Conference:* aaai04  
*AI Magazine:* aimagazine04  
*AI Topics:* aitopics04  
*Fall Symposium Series:* fss04  
*General information:* info04  
*Membership Queries:* membership04  
*AAAI Press:* press04  
*Book Orders:* orders04  
*Innovative Applications Conference:* iaai04  
*Spring Symposium Series:* sss04  
*Workshops:* workshops04  
*Student Scholarships:* scholarships04  
*Student Volunteers:* volunteer04  
*Awards Program:* awards04  
*Fellows Program:* fellows04

This information will not be posted on the AAAI web site. However, if you forget an address, AAAI can always be reached by filling out the contact form, accessible from [www.aaai.org](http://www.aaai.org).

Hans W. Guesgen ([hans@cs.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:hans@cs.auckland.ac.nz))

- Supervisory Control of Learning and Adaptive Systems. Michael Rosenstein ([mtr@cs.umass.edu](mailto:mtr@cs.umass.edu))

## AAAI-04 Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Scholar and Volunteer Programs. The Student Scholar Program provides partial travel support for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI, submit papers to the conference program or letters of recommendation from their faculty advisor, and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 15, 2004. In addition, repeat scholarship applicants must have fulfilled the volunteer and reporting requirements for previous awards. In the event that scholarship applications exceed available funds, preference will be given to students who have an accepted technical paper, and then to students who are actively participating in the conference in some way. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply.

After the conference, an expense report will be required to account for the funds awarded. For further information about the Scholarship Program, or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at [scholarships04@aaai.org](mailto:scholarships04@aaai.org), or 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Telephone: (650) 328-3123.

The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI-04 organizers in San Jose, California. In 2004, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to student scholars for the volunteer positions. Local students or students not requiring travel assistance can apply for the Volunteer Program if openings are available. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information re-

information regarding schedules and guidelines for participation. The chair and cochair of the AAAI-04 Workshop Program are Milos Hauskrecht at the University of Pittsburgh ([milos@cs.pitt.edu](mailto:milos@cs.pitt.edu)) and Dieter Fox at the University of Washington.

- Adaptive Text Extraction and Mining. Ion Muslea ([ion.muslea@sri.com](mailto:ion.muslea@sri.com))
- Agent Organizations: Theory and Practice. Virginia Dignum ([virginia@cs.uu.nl](mailto:virginia@cs.uu.nl))
- Anchoring Symbols to Sensor Data. Silvia Coradeschi ([Silvia.Coradeschi@tech.oru.se](mailto:Silvia.Coradeschi@tech.oru.se))
- Collective Mind: Architectures for Fleets of Equipment That Learn from Their Experience. Norm Sondheim ([sondheimer@som.umass.edu](mailto:sondheimer@som.umass.edu))
- Fielding Applications of Artificial Intelligence. William E. Cheetham ([cheetham@crd.ge.com](mailto:cheetham@crd.ge.com))
- Forming and Maintaining Coalitions in Adaptive Multiagent Systems. Leenkiat Soh ([lksoh@cse.unl.edu](mailto:lksoh@cse.unl.edu))
- Game AI Workshop. Dan Fu ([fu@stottlerhenke.com](mailto:fu@stottlerhenke.com))
- Intelligent Agent Architectures: Combining the Strengths of Software Engineering and Cognitive Systems. Randolph Jones ([rjones@colby.edu](mailto:rjones@colby.edu))
- Learning and Planning in Markov Processes—Advances and Challenges. Georgios Theodorou ([theochar@ai.mit.edu](mailto:theochar@ai.mit.edu))
- Models of Global Gene Expression and Its Measurement: Implications for Biomedical Computing. James Lyons-Weiler ([lyonsweilerj@upmc.edu](mailto:lyonsweilerj@upmc.edu))
- Navigation and Mapping by Autonomous Agents. Kurt Konolige ([konolige@ai.sri.com](mailto:konolige@ai.sri.com))
- Ontologies and Controlled Vocabularies. Kurt Godden ([kurt.godden@gm.com](mailto:kurt.godden@gm.com))
- Semantic Web Personalization. Bamshad Mobasher ([mobasher@cs.depaul.edu](mailto:mobasher@cs.depaul.edu))
- Sensor Networks. Gaurav Sukhatme ([gaurav@pollux.usc.edu](mailto:gaurav@pollux.usc.edu))
- Spatial and Temporal Reasoning.

garding the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at [volunteer04@aaai.org](mailto:volunteer04@aaai.org). The deadline for volunteer applications is April 15, 2004.

## AAAI/ SIGART Doctoral Consortium

AAAI and ACM/SIGART invite students to apply for the Ninth AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium. The Doctoral Consortium provides an opportunity for a group of Ph.D. students to discuss and explore their research interests and career objectives with a panel of established researchers in Artificial Intelligence.

The consortium has the following objectives: (1) to provide a setting for mutual feedback on participants' current research and guidance on future research directions; (2) to develop a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research; (3) to support a new generation of researchers with information and advice on academic, research, industrial, and nontraditional career paths; and (4) to contribute to the conference goals through interaction with other researchers and participation in conference events.

The Doctoral Consortium will be held as a workshop on July 25-26, 2004, immediately before the start of the main conference. Application packages are due at the AAAI office by February 6, 2004. The 2004 Doctoral Consortium Chair is Rob St. Amant ([stamant@eos.ncsu.edu](mailto:stamant@eos.ncsu.edu)).

## 2004 Spring Symposium Series

The 2004 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 22-24 at Stanford University and will feature eight symposia on the following subjects:

- Accessible Hands-On Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Education
- Architectures for Modeling Emotion: Cross-Disciplinary Foundations
- Bridging the Multi-Agent and Multi-Robotic Research Gap
- Exploring Attitude and Affect in Text: Theories and Applications
- Interaction between Humans and

Autonomous Systems over Extended Operation

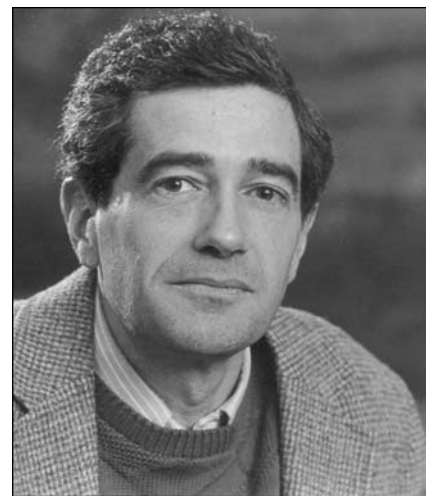
- Knowledge Representation and Ontology for Autonomous Systems
- Language Learning: An Interdisciplinary Perspective
- Semantic Web Services

Registration information is available at [www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2004/sss-04.html](http://www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/2004/sss-04.html). Please note that the deadline for registration for invited participants is February 13 and the general registration deadline is February 27.

## 2004 Fall Symposium Series

AAAI is pleased to announce the return of the Fall Symposium Series! FSS-04 will be held in Washington, DC in late October or early November 2004. The program will feature seven symposia as well as a seminar on funding for AI, to be held the day prior to the symposium series. The seven symposia are:

- Achieving Human-Level Intelligence through Integrated Systems and Research. Cochairs: Patrick Winston ([phw@ai.mit.edu](mailto:phw@ai.mit.edu)) and Nicholas Cassimatis ([cassimatis@itd.nrl.navy.mil](mailto:cassimatis@itd.nrl.navy.mil))
- Artificial Multi-Agent Learning. Chair: Sean Luke ([sean@cs.gmu.edu](mailto:sean@cs.gmu.edu))
- Dialogue Systems for Health Communication. Chair: Timothy Bickmore ([bickmore@bu.edu](mailto:bickmore@bu.edu))
- The Intersection of Cognitive Science and Robotics: From Interfaces to Intelligence. Chair: Alan Schultz ([schultz@aic.nrl.navy.mil](mailto:schultz@aic.nrl.navy.mil))
- Making Pen-Based Interaction Intelligent and Natural. Chair: Randall Davis ([davis@mit.edu](mailto:davis@mit.edu))
- Real Life Reinforcement Learning. Cochairs: Michael Littman ([mlittman@cs.rutgers.edu](mailto:mlittman@cs.rutgers.edu)) and Satinder Singh ([baveja@eecs.umich.edu](mailto:baveja@eecs.umich.edu))
- Style and Meaning in Language, Art, and Music. Cochairs: Shlomo Argamon ([argamon@iit.edu](mailto:argamon@iit.edu)) and Shlomo Dubnov ([dubnov@bgu-mail.bgu.ac.il](mailto:dubnov@bgu-mail.bgu.ac.il))



*Tom Dean Appointed  
Deputy Provost at Brown University.*

## Member News

Tom Dean, Professor of Computer Science and Cognitive and Linguistic Science at Brown University, has accepted an appointment as Deputy Provost, for a term beginning September 1, 2003 and concluding June 30, 2006. As Deputy Provost, he will help guide and manage the evolution of the academic programs at Brown. Dean became a Professor of Computer Science at Brown in 1993, and the following year was also appointed as Professor of Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences. He served as Chair of Computer Science from 1997-2002, and in 2001-02 was also Acting Vice President for Computing and Information Services. Dean is a fellow of AAAI, a past member of the Executive Council, and served as the 1991 national conference program chair.

## AAAI Executive Council Minutes

**August 10, 2003, Acapulco, Mexico.**  
*Attending:* Tom Mitchell, Ron Brachman, Marie desJardins, Rich Doyle, Tim Finin, Yolanda Gil, Carla Gomes, Craig Knoblock, Daphne Koller, David Leake, Michael Littman, Alan Mackworth, Reid Simmons, Ted Senator, Dave Waltz, Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton

AAAI President Tom Mitchell opened the meeting at 9:10 AM.

Mitchell thanked the outgoing members of the Council, including Bruce Buchanan, AAAI Past President, and the four retiring councilors: Craig Boutilier, Rina Dechter, Richard Doyle, and David Poole. He also introduced and welcomed the new members of the Executive Council, President-Elect Alan Mackworth, and the four new councilors: Steve Chien, Yolanda Gil, Haym Hirsh, and Andrew Moore, as well as Ted Senator, the new Secretary-Treasurer.

### Standing Committee Reports

**Conference.** Carol Hamilton reported that attendance at IJCAI-03 was twenty-five percent less than expected due to a number of factors, including restrictions on foreign travel, limited and expensive fares to Acapulco, cumbersome visa regulations, and the generally poor worldwide economy. This resulted in almost a \$200,000 loss for the conference. AAAI and IJCAI are each responsible for forty percent, or \$80,000 of this loss, and the Mexican AI Society (MSAI) is responsible for twenty percent, or \$40,000. It is unlikely, however, that MSAI will be able to absorb their share, so IJCAI asked if AAAI would be willing to take on another five percent. The Council voted to match IJCAI in assuming an additional five percent of the loss, bringing MSAI's portion down to ten percent.

Hamilton also reported that IAAI-03 promised to be a very solid conference, with three invited speakers — Noah S. Friedland of Vulcan, Inc, Lawrence Hunter of the University of Colorado Health Science Center, and Luid von Ahn of Carnegie Mellon University — as well as four deployed application papers and sixteen emerging application papers. The schedule was developed to complement the IJCAI conference as much as possible.

**Finance.** Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator reminded the Council that it had been about one year since a change was made in one of the investment managers. The current managers include Brandywine (value), Madison (growth), and Salomon (fixed). Allocations to these funds are in line with AAAI policy. He also reported that the

operating reserve shrank by about \$2.2 million during 2002, partly due to the change in managers and the resulting realized losses during the transfer of funds, but also because of the severe downturn in the stock market. This situation was complicated by the fact that the current AAAI budget relies on the operating reserve to help fund its programs and grants. The 2003 budget projects a twenty-five percent reduction in reliance on the operating reserve, and AAAI is planning to continue this trend for several years until a level is reached where the operating reserve can remain stable or grow slightly each year.

**Awards/Fellows/Nominating.** Carol Hamilton reported that there were no special AAAI awards in 2003 because it was an IJCAI year, but that the call for nominations for 2004 would be in the fall issue of the magazine and placed on the AAAI web site.

A new award was established in 2003 to honor former *AI Magazine* Editor-in-Chief Robert S. Englemore, and is jointly sponsored by *AI Magazine* and IAAI, for which he was a longtime program committee member and former conference chair. The first award was presented at IAAI-03 to Larry Hunter.

AAAI elected seven new Fellows in 2003: Oren Etzioni, Scott E. Fahlman, Michael Kearns, Pradeep Khosla, Michael Pazzani, Reid Simmons, and Manuela Veloso. Tom Mitchell will be the new chair of the Fellows Selection Committee for 2004; nomination materials will be mailed in October. The Nominating Committee (Executive Council nominations) results were noted in the introduction to these minutes. 2004 nominations were due November 1, 2003 from the members.

**Membership.** Reid Simmons, the Membership Committee Chair, announced his intention to stay on as chair for one additional year, and hopes to focus on launching the AAAI Chapter program during that time. He plans to begin publicizing the program more widely, and would like to start with the establishment of a chapter in the Pittsburgh area. Simmons also hopes to increase member-

ship numbers in the next year by contacting individuals who are actively interested in AI, such as SIGART members or AI instructors.

To make it easier for conference and symposium attendees to sign up for membership at the time of their registration, Executive Director Carol Hamilton will institute a special category, such as "platinum" registration, that will include a one-year membership in AAAI. Hamilton also reported that AAAI will be reconfiguring its member web site to a database model, which should enable members to change their passwords. Finally, Simmons noted that he will be seeking a volunteer to take over his position during the spring of 2004.

**Publications.** Publications Chair and *AI Magazine* editor David Leake reported that UAI had expressed an interest in having AAAI Press publish its proceedings, and that AAAI continued to publish the ICAPS (formerly AIPS) proceedings and the FLAIRS proceedings. AAAI Press also produced the proceedings from the 2003 International Conference on Machine Learning earlier this summer. The inclusion of all of these conferences' current and past papers in the AAAI digital library provides a significant benefit to AAAI members. Because there was no national conference this year, the IAAI-03 proceedings were published alone, and were distributed to all IJCAI-03 technical registrants.

Two AAAI Press edited book collections are currently in production. Leake announced that AAAI Press Editor Ken Ford would be stepping down this year, and a replacement is currently being sought. Leake will be working with Ron Brachman, AAAI President, and Mike Hamilton, AAAI Press General Manager, to identify a list of final candidates. Leake also reported that magazine activities had remained constant. Tom Mitchell thanked Leake on behalf of the Council for his superb job on the magazine.

**Grants and Scholarships.** Carol Hamilton reported that the proposed cuts in the grant program were realized, but that additional cuts are planned for 2004. The total budget

for 2003 is \$352,920, down from \$532,790 in 2002. The conference and workshop grants were cut by more than half, but other areas remained constant, such as Women and Minority grants and student scholarships. The Intel Science and Engineering Fair awards were reduced by sixty percent, but were still well above the average award in the same category. Fellows also paid for their dinners at the annual Fellows dinner in Acapulco, which helped offset some of this expense. A few of the conference grant programs are now very well established, so expenses for those programs, such as the Robot Competition and the Intelligent Systems Demos, will be moved to the conference cost center. Reid Simmons suggested that robot competition participants be given a reduced technical registration fee because they cannot attend the entire conference. This suggestion will be studied more closely during the development of the budget.

Two specific cuts for 2004 were approved. The Council agreed to reduce AAAI's annual contribution to the ACM/AAAI Allen Newell Award to \$5,000 and to further reduce the Intel Science Fair awards to ten awards at \$500 each, rather than the current twelve. Overall, it is hoped that grant expenditures will be reduced by a total of \$100,000 in 2004.

**Symposium.** Carol Hamilton reported on behalf of Marie desJardins, the Symposium Committee Associate Chair, that the Spring Symposium Series had been very successful with eight symposia and 350 attendees, way up from 273 in 2002. Renewed interest for the Fall Symposium resulted in the issuance of a Call for Interest for 2004. Preproposals were due in September 2003. The 2004 fall series would be held in Washington, DC in order to accommodate a workshop on AI funding, organized by Alan Schultz. The 2004 Spring Symposium Series Call for Participation includes eight symposia.

## Old Business

**Computing Research Association.** Tim Finin, the AAAI liaison to CRA, reported that CRA will be holding its

second Grand Challenge conference November 16–19, 2003 to discuss “Grand Research Challenges in Information Security and Assurance.” A report from the first conference on Grand Research Challenges in Information Systems, held in June 2002, is available at [www.cra.org](http://www.cra.org). Another interesting report on the “Recruitment and Retention of Faculty in Computer Science and Engineering” is also available at the CRA site. Finin announced that Ruzena Bajcsy received the 2003 CRA Distinguished Service Award, which is given each year for service in the areas of government affairs, professional societies, publications or conferences, and leadership that has had a major impact on computing research. Student AI researchers represented three out of the top four winners of the 2003 CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Awards, including Omar Khan, Cornell University, Bistra Dilkina, Simon Fraser University, and Julie Thornton, Kansas State University. Tim Finin and Anupam Joshi and their students represented CRA in the Ninth Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) Capitol Hill Exhibition and Reception. This annual event is organized by CNSF to showcase to members of Congress and staff the crucial role of the National Science Foundation in meeting the nation's research and education needs. Dick Waters of Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs is chairing the committee to organize the next Snowbird Conference, to be held July 11-13, 2004 in Snowbird, Utah. CRA continues to monitor federal policy that impacts computing research, and interact with policy makers to improve their understanding of computing and computing research in society. Please see [cra.org/govaffairs/](http://cra.org/govaffairs/), maintained by Peter Harsha, CRA Director of Government Affairs, for more information.

**Botball.** Rich Doyle reported on the current status of Botball and the Associated National Conference on Educational Robotics, sponsored by KIPR. The NCER includes professional development for high-school teachers, the Botball National Tournament, technical sessions, tutorials, invited talks, and a Collegiate Botball Chal-

lenge. AAAI's donation to NCER was \$20,000 in 2003. KIPR is seeking cosponsorship of NCER in 2004 and collocation of this event with AAAI-04 in San Jose. Carol Hamilton will follow up with the NCER organizers to gather more specific data about costs, registration fees, and space needs before a final decision about collocation and support can be made.

**Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.** Reid Simmons, the head judge for AAAI, provided additional information about the 2003 Intel Science Fair, held in Cleveland, Ohio, May 11-17. Twelve \$500 awards were given to 13 students (one team). In addition to the cash prize, recipients received a certificate and a complimentary one-year membership in AAAI, including a subscription to *AI Magazine*, for themselves and their schools. Tom Mitchell thanked AAAI's team of judges, including Simmons, Tom Dean, Janet Kolodner, and Martha Pollack, for their generous donation of time.

**AAAI-05 Site Selection.** Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI had proposals from several cities, and requested feedback on preferred sites. Given the current restrictions on international travel and travel outside the continental United States, the Council decided not to hold the conference in Hawaii in 2005. Favorable sites included Albuquerque, Boston, and Colorado. Hamilton will seek more detailed bids from these cities in the fall.

**Brainstorming Session Review.** During the March Executive Council meeting, the Council brainstormed about AAAI's current activities, future activities, and general mission. Carol Hamilton circulated a brief recap of this session. Several suggestions were made about further follow-up, including an article in *AI Magazine* and a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee to develop a concise mission statement. A few additional suggestions were made during the course of this discussion, including the addition of a suggestion box on the online membership form and a donation box on the online membership form. In addition, the biannual presidential address was identified as the



Tom Mitchell hands over the gavel to the new AAAI President, Ron Brachman.

perfect vehicle to encourage members to volunteer for AAAI and in the AI community.

### New Business

Prior to the new business section of the meeting, Tom Mitchell officially handed over the gavel to Ron Brachman, who took over as AAAI President. Mitchell was presented with a small plaque, and the members of the Executive Council thanked him for all his work during his tenure as AAAI President.

**JAIR Proposal.** David Leake presented a proposal to the Council for AAAI Press to assume the publication of the hard copy of the *Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research*. Seventeen previous volumes of JAIR were published by Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, but Elsevier notified Morgan Kaufmann that they would no longer be publishing hard copy volumes. The electronic versions of JAIR are publicly available on the web. AAAI has been asked to take over the hard-copy publication, and distribute it to libraries and the general public. It would be available to AAAI members at a discount, and the electronic papers, in-

cluding all previously published, would be incorporated into the AAAI Digital Library. JAIR would continue to maintain its own site for the electronic version. There may be some difficulty making this a break-even proposition. Therefore, the Council decided to do it on a trial basis. At the end of two years, the project will be assessed and a decision will be made as to whether it will be continued. (In subsequent discussions, the Executive Committee decided to invest up to \$15,000 in this two-year experiment.)

**Symposium Cochair.** The Executive Council approved the appointment of Alan Schultz as the new Symposium Committee Cochair. The committee now consists of Holly Yanco, Chair, Schultz, and Marie desJardins, Associate Chair and liaison to the Executive Council.

**AAAI Membership E-Mail Distribution List.** Ted Senator proposed that the policy regarding the use of the electronic membership email distribution list be modified so that conferences in which AAAI has a financial stake, such as IJCAI in North America or KDD, can submit two an-

nouncements for distribution. This does not extend to conferences or workshops that receive an outright grant, with no share of the conference revenue assigned to AAAI. The distribution list had been restricted to announcements regarding AAAI events and programs only. This proposal was approved by the Executive Council.

Alan Mackworth suggested that a periodic announcement be made to all members, listing all affiliated or cosponsored conferences in the coming year. Hamilton will investigate the feasibility of this. This information is available on the AAAI web site.

**AAAI Membership Rates.** Carol Hamilton reported that a review of the membership rates, which were raised at the beginning of 2003, will be made at the end of the year. The Council agreed that staff can make minor adjustments to rates if postage costs can be reduced.

**Tutorial Slides.** Carol Hamilton proposed that individual tutorial books, which are currently distributed at the national conference, be replaced by a single volume, containing slides for all tutorials. Preliminary bids indicated that this option will save several thousand dollars. The Council approved this suggestion, and also agreed that tutorial books would have to be preordered by attendees for an additional fee. The Council also discussed the possibility of putting the slides on the web ahead of time, or including electronic versions on the conference CD. Staff will follow up on these possibilities.

Ron Brachman adjourned the meeting at 4:55 PM.

### Reminder:

AAAI-04 / IAAI-04 Submissions Are Due January 20, 2004. For details, follow the link at AAAI's home page.