

**11466 Laurelcrest Rd.  
Studio City, CA 91604  
(818) 985-4094, (818) 763-8024 fax, wedwards@usc.edu**

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November 26, 2001

**Memorandum to:** Scientists and practitioners interested in Bayesian research, inference by people, machines, or a blend, evaluation and decision making by the same, decision support systems, expert systems for inference and/or decision, and the like

**From:** Ward Edwards

**Subject:** 40th Annual Bayesian Research Conference, February 7 - 8, 2002

**You're invited to the Bayesian Conference**

On February 8 and 9, 2001, the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Bayesian Research Conference took place. Many of you attended the meeting at the Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel in Studio City, California.

The fact that the 39<sup>th</sup> annual meeting took place a year ago has a startling consequence: the next annual meeting, which will occur on February 7 and 8, 2002 (Feb.7, 2002, is a Thursday.) is the 40<sup>th</sup>. So: this is your invitation to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Bayesian Research Conference. The Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel is located at the intersection of Ventura Boulevard and Coldwater Canyon Boulevard in Studio City, California.

Our format and purpose will be the same this year as in recent previous years. We hear (and many of us will give) 30-minute papers about research on inference, evaluation, decision processes and problems. We always strive for a blend of basic research and applications. A mixture of behavioral and normative interests has characterized us over the years. This means that decision analysts and behavioral decision theorists will be talking to one another. In recent years a number of members of the Normative AI Systems community have attended. So, in addition to more familiar topics like utility, probability, cognitive illusions, and the like, we will also hear about influence diagrams, formal representations of uncertainty, utility theory as a basis for control, data mining, and similar topics. We are as ecumenical about topics as about people; new topics that surprise me turn up each year.

One new topic is almost certain to come up: Security. The technology of averting terrorist attacks is a topic of great interest to many of us—and to many potential sponsors as well. February of 2002 is a bit early for new ideas on this topic to be abundant and exciting. But we can hope—and I can do minor things to bring that hope to fruition.

As old hands know, the atmosphere is informal, the discussion can get intense, and many of the best debates take place during coffee breaks or in the hospitality suite at the end of the day. This Conference is a good place to try out your latest, wildest set of ideas on a kindly, knowledgeable, and critical audience. It is not a good place to make once again the speech for which you have received plaudits for the last two years. While some of our topics are technically demanding, the diversity of backgrounds of those attending calls for restraint in presenting mathematical materials; few of us are theorem-provers. (Some are, and indeed some papers prove theorems. But we need to be told why, and led gently by the hand through proofs.)

To get to the Sportsmen's Lodge, if you are driving, get to the Ventura Freeway, turn East from the San Diego Freeway or West from the Hollywood Freeway, exit at Coldwater Canyon Boulevard, drive South to Ventura Boulevard, and you are there; it is on the NE corner of that intersection.

Those not driving have various options. If you fly into Burbank Airport and have a reservation, simply phone the Sportsmen's Lodge and they will send a van to pick you up, if it is before 10 pm. If you fly into LAX, numerous shuttle services will, for a price, take you from LAX to the Sportsmen's Lodge. Flyaway Bus Service will get you to Van Nuys, which is pretty close; from there you can take a cab.

The Conference will have a registration fee of \$50 per person. There will be a hospitality room on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Those who choose to stay over Friday evening will find other colleagues who do the same; we usually have a good time. All who do are invited to join me at my house for post-Conference drinks and conversation, after which we all usually go out to dinner.

If you indicate on the questionnaire that you must talk or want to talk, you should assume that you are on the program. If you check "schedule me if time permits," bring your viewgraphs but don't be hurt if time doesn't permit. I will, as usual, rewrite the title of your talk in an effort to make it funny unless you save yourself from my often inept ministrations by making it funny in the first place.

Please let us know as soon as you can whether or not you can come. We need answers by **January 25**, in order that the Sportsmen's Lodge can know how many rooms to hold. The 2000 Conference was not heavily attended. I wondered if that was a sign that it was time to stop having them. But those who did attend enjoyed it so much and felt that they learned so much from the intensive discussions that its small size made possible that they twisted my arm to keep it going.

If I have missed someone who should have been invited, please copy this letter and the accompanying registration form and pass both on, or contact Letty Baz via email at [baz@rcf.usc.edu](mailto:baz@rcf.usc.edu). If you need to reach me, my home phone number is 818-985-4094, and my email address is [wedwards@usc.edu](mailto:wedwards@usc.edu). Now that I am emeritus, I no longer use my USC addresses. Please send the registration form back to Letty Baz at the address shown on the form; sending it to me would only enhance the probability of its getting lost, since I would have to pass it on to her.

I'll see you in the Hospitality Suite on Wednesday evening, February 6, at 6:00 pm or any time after that. Do come Wednesday evening. It's a good time to visit with old friends, meet new ones, and prepare yourself for the following day's stimulation.

**Registration Form**  
**40th Annual Bayesian Research Conference**  
**February 7 and 8, 2002**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN BY JANUARY 25 TO:**

**Letty Baz**  
**Social Science Research Institute, AHF B-51**  
**University of Southern California**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90089-0375; fax 213-740-8077**

1. I plan to attend the following:
- February 6, Wednesday night, hospitality suite
  - February 7, Thursday meeting session
  - February 8, Friday meeting session
  - All of the above

2. Accommodations:
- Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel
    - Single Room, \$108.00
    - Double Room, \$108.00
    - Room with pool view, \$122.00
    - Smoking                       Non-Smoking

In order to hold reservation, please provide the following credit card information:

Visa  Master Card  AX  Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

I will make my own accommodations

3. Reservation request:
- Wednesday and Thursday (nights of Feb. 6 and 7)
  - Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday (nights of Feb. 6, 7, 8)
  - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday (nights of Feb. 6, 7, 8, 9)
  - Thursday and Friday (nights of Feb. 7 and 8)
  - Wednesday night only (Feb. 6)
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Request to be scheduled as speaker on conference program:

Yes

No

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

Must speak to have trip financed

Must speak

Would like to speak

Schedule me only if time permits

5. Audio/Visual equipment needed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Additional comments: (Other appropriate invitees, please include address, special arrangements, etc.)

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Please note that in order to hold room block reservations, the registration form must be returned no later than **JANUARY 25**. Your promptness will be greatly appreciated.

**Registration fee is \$50.00 including meeting room and hospitality suite refreshments. Please return checks made payable to Ward Edwards along with this form.**

No confirmation notices will be mailed. Receipts will be available at the conference.