

1994 SIGAda Award Winners

It was my pleasure to co-chair the SIGAda Award Committee with your Vice Chair for Liaison, Ed Colbert. This inaugurates what we hope will become an annual set of awards recognized as the most prestigious in the Ada community. We have established two categories of competed awards:

- Outstanding Ada Community Contributions: recognizing broad, lasting contributions to the overall state of Ada technology and usage.
- ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award: recognizing exceptional “volunteer” contributions to SIGAda activities and products.

On the previous page is a simplified sketch of the Ada statuette which we had designed and which is being awarded to each winner. The statuette is approximately 7” tall, on a broad wooden base. This design should uniquely distinguish the SIGAda awards from the traditional plaques given for other awards, and we hope the statuettes will come to convey the exceptional distinction we mean to bestow upon our awards winners. (Of course, the inscription on the base is personalized for each winner.)

As many of you know, nominations for award winners came from the SIGAda membership, as announced in Ada LETTERS and by letter last summer. 27 nominations were received, some for both categories. An Awards Committee was formed with representation from most constituencies in the Ada community, including all past Chairs of SIGAda and AdaTEC. This group discussed and clarified the cited qualifications of the nominees, and then conducted a ballot, all by e-mail. Each committee member could vote for as many or as few nominees as he/she felt deserved to be recognized, and we set the criteria that winners would be all those who received votes from at least *two-thirds* of the ballots (or leading vote getters and ties in case either category failed to yield a two-thirds winner). I am only speculating in noting that 7 winners were selected this year because there were so many long-overdue deserving candidates, and now that many of the most exceptional candidates have been honored, fewer will be awarded in the future.

We could not be prouder of these seven initial SIGAda award winners! No one who has participated for long in the Ada community or SIGAda can question the distinguished contributions of each. Not surprisingly, the 4 winners in the “Community Contributions” category are recognized for mainly different types of accomplishments, while it might have been expected that the “SIGAda distinguished Service” awards are for accomplishments particularly focused in the domains of technology represented by SIGAda’s *Working Groups*, a unique organization strength of SIGAda started in 1984 and strengthened by each of my predecessor SIGAda Chairs. Some of the highlight accomplishments for which the winners have been recognized are summarized in brief below, based on citations from their nominations. (I am certain that for each there are further qualifications that neither their nominators nor I knew of, so please excuse any flagrant omissions.)

John Barnes: It is arguably claimed that John is the *only* significant technical contributor to *both* the original and revised Ada languages (as both language design team member and Distinguished Reviewer), and to both the Ada83 and Ada95 rationale documents. He is also the author of one of the (if not *the*) best-selling Ada books, a participant in the ARG and the ISO standardization processes, the principal UK Expert on Ada 9X, and currently President of Ada Europe and Ada UK. John has brought the quiet grace and charm of the British, and his own unique blend of humour and technical prowess, to the Ada community for 15 years.

John Goodenough: John was a Distinguished Reviewer for both the original and revised Ada languages, chair of the ARG which arbitrated Ada semantics after ambiguities and incompletenesses

became known in the Ada83 standard, long-time Ada Board member, and co-author of the SEI's "*Ada Adoption Handbook: A Program Manager's Guide*" which remains the government's most-requested technical report on Ada. He has also made significant contributions in both the real-time and numerics areas (see also that he is an honored NUMWG member). John's humble personality has made his technical leadership widely respected.

Emmett Paige, Jr.: Formerly a strong champion of Ada and a very early proponent of Ada's benefits beyond the classical "embedded systems" domain (especially in the information systems domain) as a U.S. Army General, Mr. Paige currently serves as the *Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command Control Communications and Intelligence*. No one has been more responsible than Mr. Paige for Ada policy and its enforcement in the DoD for many years, and he is aggressively supporting early preparations for DoD transition to Ada 9X. His hands-on advocacy of Ada from his high positions, and his openness in communicating with anyone in the Ada community, are legendary in the DoD.

William Whitaker: Without Bill Whitaker, Ada would probably not exist today. As Chairman of the DoD's *High Order Language Working Group* (responsible for determining DoD requirements to address out-of-control programming language proliferation, and then for evaluating existing languages against those criteria) in the mid-1970's, it was his determination that the right actions be taken that led to the decision to procure a new language and launch the Ada program. He formulated and championed the vision of a common DoD programming language, kept the program sold, and kept the program focused for progress in the 1970's. A man with lesser vision, passion, energy, and stubborn perseverance would not have created, defined, and saved the Ada program. In addition to his management contribution, Bill has been constantly active with technical aspects of Ada too; note that he is also recognized as a member of SIGAda's Numerics Working Group.

Mike Feldman: Mike had been pressing the academic side of Ada (to everyone who would listen) and academic issues for years before becoming *SIGAda's Education Working Group Chair* in 1993. He maintains and publishes the growing lists of schools using Ada (an act which probably helps stimulate more schools to adopt Ada), and frequently organizes sessions at SIGAda events. He has been a leader in SIGAda's *Ada Awareness Initiative*, particularly in soliciting many of the *Ada success stories* now receiving wide distribution. He has been an effective agent to integrate DoD, commercial entities, and the rest of SIGAda with the *educator* perspective. Mike, we heard you! I believe that now more than ever there is an interaction with academic participants and issues through all of SIGAda's (and the community's) activities.

Mike Kamrad: Mike founded (almost 10 years ago) and has been permanent chair of SIGAda's first working group, the *Ada Run-Time Environment Working Group (ARTEWG)*. Mike and ARTEWG have constantly shown the rest of SIGAda the meaning of "work" in "working group" with an ambitious plan and active meeting schedule for development and evolution of a suite of products influential on vendors, standards activities, systems developments, and development methods. Mike's management capabilities coupled with his down-to-earth workaholic style have clearly been a major factor in leading his whole working group to its remarkable productivity and recognition. While ARTEWG products attained *de facto* industry-standard status for Ada83 in important areas of real-time systems not completely addressed by the Ada standard, as a Distinguished Reviewer for Ada9X, Mike has succeeded in bringing experience-based improvements into the new Ada95 standard.

SIGAda Numerics Working Group: With Gil Myers as Chair, the SIGAda Numerics Working Group (NUMWG) has been one of SIGAda's longest running and constantly active working groups. They have produced *4 proposed draft standard numeric packages for Ada*, and have carried these NUMWG products forward to formal standards bodies. These numeric packages will become the first SIGAda

working group products to essentially “verbatim” achieve *ISO standardization*; one or more may have completed the ISO process before this is published. NUMWG is recognized for conducting an exemplar broad and open working group product development process based on clear user needs, and for the unprecedented achievement of following through to make their results a formal standard. Contributing NUMWG members were: A.Adamson, J.G.P.Barnes, A.Bertier, J.M.Chebat, W.J.Cody, P.M.Cohen, S.G.Cohen, T.J.Decker, M.Delves, R.B.K.Dewar, K.W.Dritz, B.Ford, J.B.Goodenough, G.S.Hodgson, T.E.Hull, A.Klumph, J.Kok, R.F.Mathis, T.G.Matson, G.B.Myers Jr., J.P.Rosen, D.W.Sando, B.T.Smith, J.S.Squire, P.T.P.Tang, P.Wehrum, W.A.Whitaker, B.Wichman, and D.T.Winter.