

## 1995 SIGAda Award Winners

It was my pleasure to announce at Tri-Ada'95 the second class of winners in the SIGAda Awards. This continues what we hope will become a permanent SIGAda tradition — annual awards that are recognized as the most prestigious in the Ada community. SIGAda has 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.

For those that missed the 1994 SIGAda Awards announcements, last year's winners were:

- Outstanding Ada Community Contributions: *John Barnes, John Goodenough, Emmett Paige Jr., and William Whitaker*
- ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award: *Mike Feldman, Mike Kamrad, and the SIGAda Numerics Working Group (Gil Myers, Chair)*

We are very proud to now honor six 1995 SIGAda award winners! Each has made multiple distinguished contributions in the Ada community or SIGAda; in most cases, their contributions fit both award categories and it was fairly arbitrary which award they received. Some of their highlight accomplishments are briefly summarized below, based on citations from their nominations. (*My apologies for flagrant omissions of important accomplishments.*)

**Rick Conn:** Rick has for years maintained the *Public Ada Library (PAL)* and its predecessor(s). The PAL now includes reusable Ada components, Ada 83 and Ada 95 translators, Ada 95 transition guidelines and reports, over 50 sets of courseware (Ada, software engineering, domain engineering, OOD, OOP, etc.), many Ada bindings, and a dozen other categories of information. He started and built this resource as a totally volunteer effort, and now receives modest government funding to keep it growing (in addition to his full-time job and teaching). Rick works to keep the PAL connected at the forefront of the electronic world, including several mirror sites. I refer to Rick as the “*architect of the Ada CD-ROM*” from Walnut Creek (a role he performs without compensation) because he brought the opportunity to Walnut Creek's attention and arranges the copying of the PAL for each quarterly edition. Additionally, Rick brokered the bargain price at which SIGAda purchases thousands of the Ada CD-ROM yearly for promotional sales and give-aways. We are pleased to honor Rick's largely *behind-the-scenes* accomplishments!

**Robert Dewar:** Robert is a principal on both the early NYU Ada/ED and more recent Ada 95 GNAT teams, and co-founder of Ada Core Technologies to support GNAT's transition to commercial status. He served as a Distinguished Reviewer and a principal in standardization activities for both Ada 83 and Ada 95. Additionally, for over 15 years he has consistently been the Ada community's most entertaining and effective speaker, always mixing his talks with a blend of humor and selective key technical points. He has twice served as SIGAda's Standards Committee chair, and is a most popular speaker at Local SIGAda Chapter meetings – to which he always gladly volunteers his time and always draws a large crowd. Ada activities are more fun and more productive with Robert present!

**Jean Ichbiah:** The only thing that really need be said is that “*Jean designed Ada!*” As head of the “*Green*” team that defined the winning language in the *DoD-I* competition in the late 1970's and refined the Ada language through its DoD and ANSI standardizations in the 1980's, Jean is widely recognized for driving and integrating language-design decisions to create the elegance of Ada. Then he founded one of the first new companies (Alsys, now part of Thomson) to develop Ada compilers, and had a major impact on building the Ada support industry. Truly, Ada 83 is Jean Ichbiah!

**Tucker Taft:** Tucker has been a leader on Intermetrics Ada activities for 15 years, gaining early recognition as designer of important aspects of the Air Force Ada Integrated Environment in the early 1980's. The past several years, Tucker has been the technical lead on the *Ada 9X* project, resulting in the Ada 95 language definition standardized in early 1995. The Ada 95 design process was at least as *open* and smooth as Ada 83's, and the acclaim Ada 95 is enjoying is due to Tucker's effectiveness at reconciling differing views and objectives while exerting strong, consistent leadership in engineering modern features into Ada. We expect that time will judge Ada 95 a success, and no one deserves credit more than Tucker!

**Chuck Engle:** Chuck has served the Ada community and SIGAda consistently through several major career changes — as an early Ada educator while on the West Point faculty, as an Ada proponent (and contributor to the still-popular “*Ada Adoption Handbook: A Program Manager's Guide*”) while at the SEI, as co-chair of Tri-Ada'89 (*our first full conference/tutorial/exhibition*), and as a professor at Florida Institute of Technology. But, what has singled Chuck out for unique special recognition is his *unsung-hero* expertise in editing of the Tri-Ada proceedings 5 of the past 6 years, making it a highest quality publication which SIGAda and the Ada community can be proud of. Chuck's high standards of diverse accomplishments qualify him well for his new challenge (as of late 1995) — as the new Chief of the government's Ada Joint Program Office.

**Mark Gerhardt:** Mark has been a *lightening rod* of positive attention and advocacy for Ada since the early 1980's. Mark distinguished himself in a variety of visible roles during the introductory years of Ada, including co-chairing the IEEE's *Ada-as-a-PDL* working group in the mid-1980's, and frequently speaking and writing in non-traditional Ada forums, effectively selling Ada's role in the larger worlds of software engineering and system engineering. While almost continuously in the employment of large systems integrators, Mark also enjoys a reputation as an expert educator, and was technical director of one of industry's largest internal Ada training programs at TRW 1988-1990. Mark was SIGAda's first two-term Chair (1989-1993), and continues to serve as a catalyst for many new SIGAda activities. Ada and SIGAda events are never dull with Mark involved!

***Please give all our SIGAda award winners your personal congratulations when you see them.*** However, many important contributors to SIGAda and the state of Ada technology remain to be honored in the future. SIGAda will make at least one award in each category annually (*more if two-thirds of the selection committee agree*). Mike Griffin has agreed to chair the SIGAda Awards Committee again for **1996**. Contact him with your ideas about improving our awards program, to volunteer to help in the selection process, or to submit an early 1996 nomination: e-mail him at [griffin@ACM.ORG](mailto:griffin@ACM.ORG), or write him at: 11103A Aurora Circle, Eagle River, AK 99577-8113; phone (907) 694-3155.