

*Report from the SIGAda Awards Committee*  
**1998 SIGAda AWARD WINNERS**

AUDREY HOOK  
BENJAMIN BROSGOL  
GERRY FISHER

It was our pleasure to honor [Audrey](#), [Ben](#), and [Gerry](#) at SIGAda'98 in DC in November as the fifth class of SIGAda Award winners. This continues a 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. **Audrey Hook is our 1998 winner.**
- ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award: recognizing exceptional "volunteer" contributions to SIGAda activities and products. **Gerry Fisher and Ben Brosgol share our 1998 award.**

For those who missed the previous SIGAda Awards announcements, past winners are:

- Outstanding Ada Community Contributions: *Christine Anderson, John Barnes, Kenneth L. Bowles, Richard Conn, Robert Dewar, John Goodenough, Jean Ichbiah, Magnus Kempe, Bob Mathis, Jim Moore, Emmett Paige Jr., Richard Riehle, Edmond Schonberg, Tucker Taft, and William Whitaker*
- ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award: *Brad Balfour, Ed Colbert, Chuck Engle, Mike Feldman, Anthony Gargaro, Mark Gerhardt, Hal Hart, Mike Kamrad, Charlene Roberts-Hayden, and the SIGAda Numerics Working Group (Gil Myers, Chair)*

We are very proud to now honor the three 1998 SIGAda award winners! Each has made multiple distinguished contributions in the Ada community or SIGAda; in two 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.*)

**Gerry Fisher**: Quite simply, this ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award recognizes that there would probably be no SIGAda today if not for Gerry's conduct as the Chairperson of the SIGPLAN Technical Committee on Ada, *AdaTEC* (SIGAda's predecessor). Many people contributed organizationally in those pioneering days, but Gerry led a merry band known as the *Ada Implementors Group* through an evolution to include anyone interested in Ada and then under the umbrella of ACM, first as a subunit of SIGPLAN and then as an organization growing in size, structure, and maturity to its own status as full-fledged ACM Special Interest Group. Gerry's term as Chair of *AdaTEC* 1981-1984 culminated with the elections officially establishing SIGAda, with Gerry serving as SIGAda's first Past Chair (always a voting member of the SIGAda Executive Committee). In addition to leading those heady early days of quarterly *AdaTEC* meetings around the country and growing in size to the envy of most ACM SIG's, Gerry was a recognized leader in Ada implementation technology. He led the NYU team developing the first validated Ada translator ("Ada ED") and then helped re-invent Ada compiler technology in achieving one of the next Ada compiler validations while at TeleSoft. Few people

were more impactful in establishing SIGAda and a viable Ada community than Gerry!

**Audrey Hook:** Audrey almost single-handedly has been the primary force behind the development and success of the Ada Validation Office of the Ada Joint Program Office. Through several AJPO administrations, beginning in 1984/1985, she helped to develop the Ada Validation Procedures and Policies as well as aided the AJPO directors and foreign testing labs to set up Ada Validation Facilities. As Ada 83 matured and Ada 95 was developed, she was instrumental in the evolution of the Ada Validation policy and procedures. Recently retired, Audrey was a Senior Research Staff Member at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA). For serving one of those oft-invisible but indispensable roles, [the 1998 SIGAda Award for Outstanding Ada Community Contributions](#) recognizes Audrey's steadfast leadership assuring the unrivaled enforcement of the Ada standard which is so much of Ada's success!

**Ben Brosgol:** It may not be his most important accomplishment in the Ada community, but Ben holds the unique distinction of serving two terms as SIGAda Chair separated by 8 years. In SIGAda's early days, he was SIGAda's first Vice Chair for Meetings and Conferences and SIGAda's second Chairperson during the zenith of SIGAda's and TRI-Ada's growth, with membership in the top 10 of ACM's SIG's and TRI-Ada becoming one of ACM's *big-5* conferences. Additionally during this period, SIGAda's working groups took root and several became unique forums for actual product development and other accomplishments benefiting the Ada community. Ben's consistent, attentive leadership style encouraged broad participation and bred significant new leadership from SIGAda's ranks. At the same time, Ben has been a consistently visible, technically expert proponent for Ada in a large variety of venues, including keynoting at other conferences in related fields; doing training in Ada both independently and corporately at Intermetrics, Alsys, and now Aonix; publishing technical articles; and providing persuasive Ada tracts. One of the lesser known fact about Ben is that he was the chief designer of the runner-up "red" language in the Ada language design competition in the late 1970's. All these efforts have increased respect for both Ada and SIGAda. Due to his experience, contributions, and leadership, there can be few better equipped than Ben to lead SIGAda into the next phase of its lifecycle. By his service as an officer or subcommittee/working group Chair the entire 18-year history of SIGAda/AdaTEC, Ben has been SIGAda's longest running, most technically active contributors, and this [ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award](#) is overdue, in my opinion!