

SIGADA

The ACM Special Interest Group on Ada

ACM

Association for Computing Machinery

1515 Broadway
New York, NY 10036-5701
Phone: +1 (212) 869-7440
Fax: +1 (212) 302-5826

Reply To:

John W. McCormick
Chair ACM SIGAda
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0507
Phone: +1 (319) 273-6056
FAX: +1 (319) 273-7123
Email: mccormick@cs.uni.edu



February 1, 2006

Dear SIGAda Members:

SIGAda 2005 took place in Atlanta, Georgia November 13-17. **George Romanski**, President of Verocel Inc., started the conference off with his keynote address, *Ada in the Avionics Industry*. Ada has been successfully in this domain in the past and industry will continue to use it. He discussed the evolution of avionics systems and pointed out the role Ada can play in future aircraft systems. **James Leonard**, presented a historical perspective of our discipline in his keynote address, *Faster Than a Speeding Bullet*. Starting with a picture of himself as a child in a 1930s era Ford Jim took us through decades of research and product development culminating with a video of Boeing's state of the art systems. His stories and pictures brought back many memories for the audience.

I won't dwell on the papers presented at the conference as they were published in the Conference Proceedings—the December 2005 issue of Ada Letters. I will comment on the high quality of the presentations. On the conference evaluation forms, attendees listed presentations, tutorials, and networking with others as the best of SIGAda 2005.

The Outstanding Ada Community Contribution Award for 2005 was awarded to **Matthew Heaney** and **Pascal Leroy**. There were also two recipients of the ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award this year: **Eugene Bingue** and **Rush Kester**. This issue of Ada Letters contains citations for these awards. **Gnut Pedersen** was awarded the Outstanding Student Paper Award for his paper titled *AspectAda — Aspect Oriented Programming for Ada 95*. More information on all these award winners may be found in this issue of Ada Letters.

It is not too early to start thinking about your nominations for the 2006 ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service and Outstanding Ada Community Contribution awards. Nomination forms are available at <http://www.sigada.org/exec/awards/awards.html>.

A conference such as SIGAda 2005 is a considerable undertaking for volunteers. As Chair of the SIGAda 2005 Conference I was in a position to appreciate the efforts of those who

helped organize it. My archive includes 2,581 e-mail messages related to this conference. I would like to thank the folks who sent and received these messages. Program Chair **Leemon Baird** was responsible for soliciting, choosing, and scheduling the presentations. As Publicity Chair, **Weston Pan** revitalized the look of our Advanced and Final programs. This was Leemon's and Weston's first involvement with a SIGAda conference. Leemon will be using his experiences in a repeat performance of his role of Program Chair. Weston is taking a year off so we are currently looking for a new person to take on the design of next year's programs. **David Cook** organized the ever popular tutorials and **Alok Srivastava** put together a large set of Birds of a Feather and Workshops. Webmaster and Proceedings Chair **Clyde Roby** put in many hours on the web site and was diligent at the conference in obtaining the necessary permissions from authors to publish their papers in the proceedings. **Thomas Panfil** kept the registration system working and made sure that everyone was well instructed on how to assemble their name tags and ribbons. SIGAda 2005 marked the retirement of two key conference personnel. **Rick Conn** served as Local Arrangements Chair for both SIGAda 2004 and 2005. **Hal Hart** served as Conference Treasurer for many years. Both will be missed. I wish them all the best in their retirements. Both outgoing and current SIGAda Vice Chairs for Meetings and Conferences, **David Harrison** and **Ricky Sward** oversaw the entire conference process. We are not done yet. There are still a few bills to pay, some money to collect, and financial reports to produce. I hope that this work will be completed by the time you read this letter.

We are always indebted to our corporate sponsors, without which, we would be unable to conduct a financially successful conference. As Exhibits Chair, **Ron Oliver** did an excellent job soliciting and organizing our sponsors. I thank Microsoft, AdaCore, I-Logix, Verocel, Tni Europe, and the Ada Resource Association for their support.

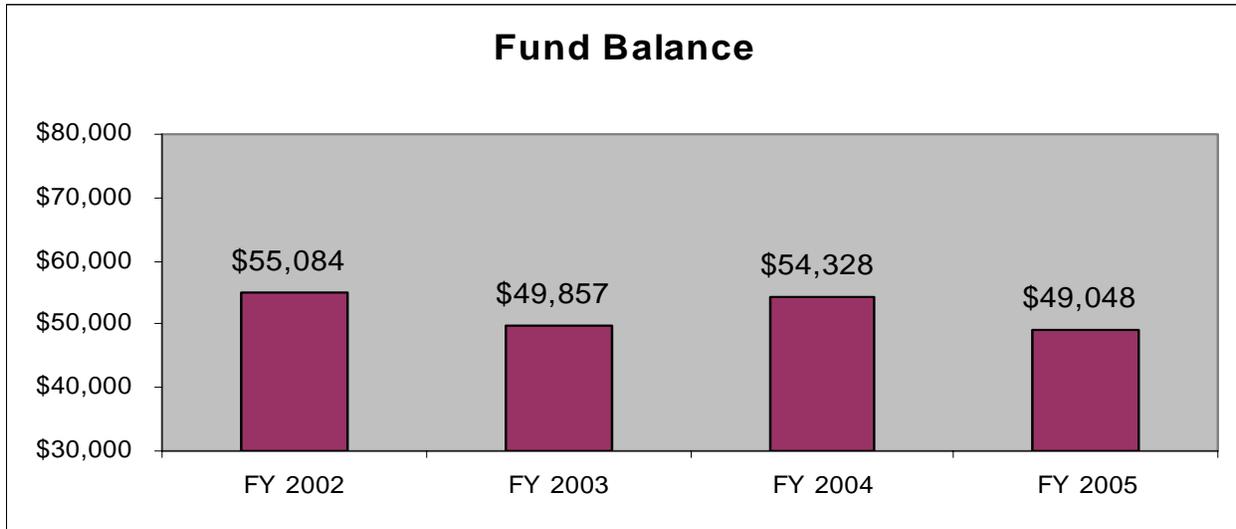
This was our first experience holding the conference at the same venue for two years in a row. With the previous year's experience we were able to improve our efficiency and bottom line for the conference. However, several people wrote on their evaluation form that they would prefer not to repeat venues in the future. Next year it is off to Albuquerque, New Mexico. As usual, SIGAda 2006 is organized by volunteers. We always welcome additional help. If you would like to help out with the planning of SIGAda 2006, please contact one of our Program Co-Chairs: Greg Gicca at gicca@ghs.com or Ricky Sward at Ricky.Sward@USAF.Af.mil. They look forward to hearing from you.

On February 10th I will be attending the ACM SIG Governing Board (ACM SGB) meeting in Chicago. SIGAda will be among seven SIGs undergoing Program Reviews. The purpose of a Program Review is to show that a SIG is viable. Viability is based on

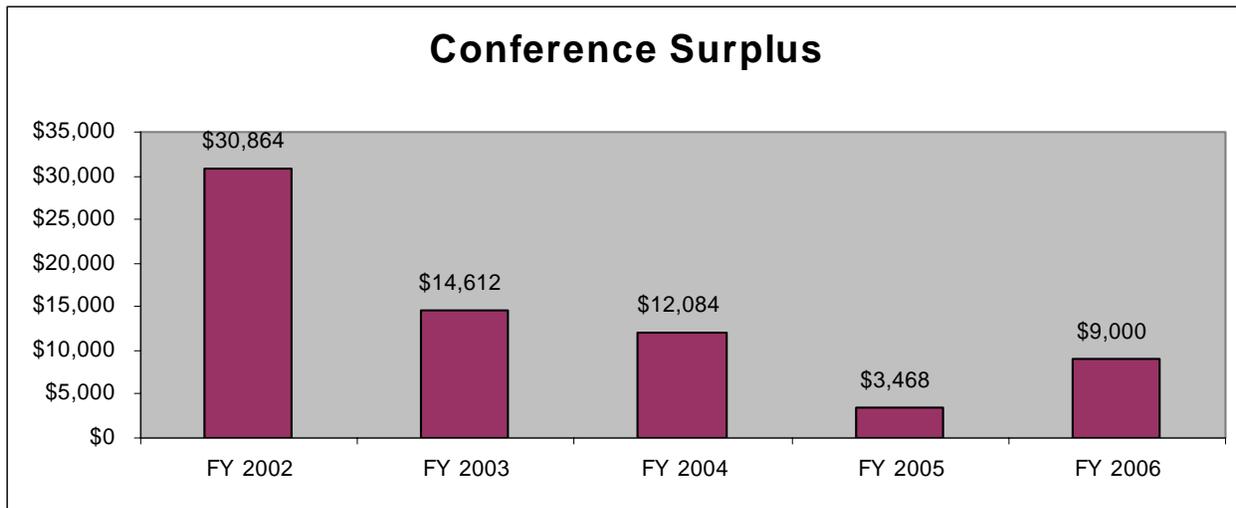
1. Growing or stable membership
2. Solid finances
3. Healthy conferences
4. Publications or other member benefits being delivered and received well by members.

In preparation for this meeting ACM has sent me statistical information about our performance since our last Program Review in 2002. In accordance with SGB policies, I have prepared five slides which illustrate our accomplishments since 2002. I'll highlight some of

those accomplishments here. In the September 2005 issue of Ada Letters, Treasurer Martin Carlisle described where SIGAda gets its money and how it spends it. As you can see from the following graph, the fund balance we maintain has remained relatively constant over the past four years.



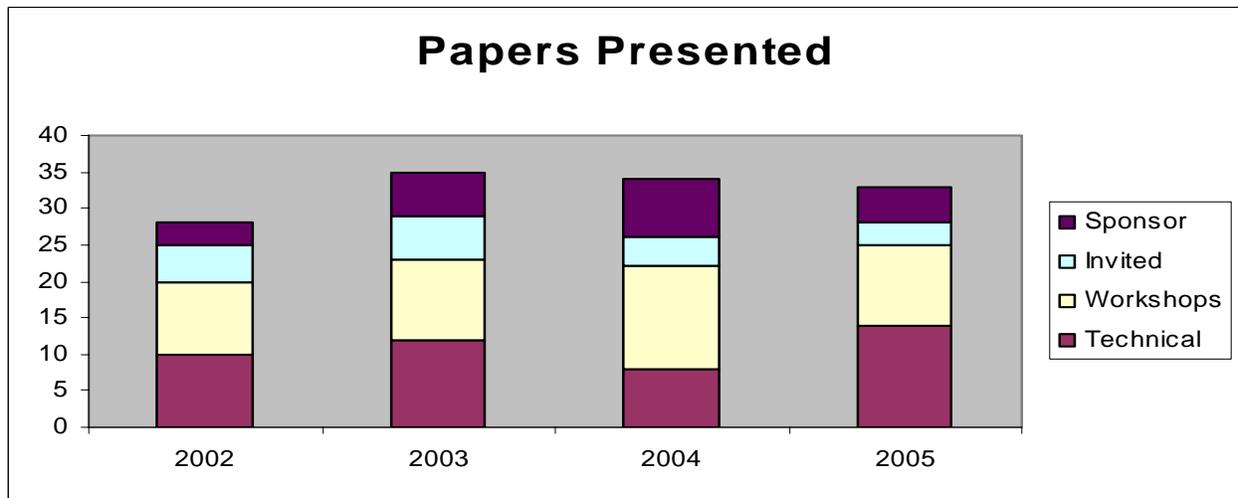
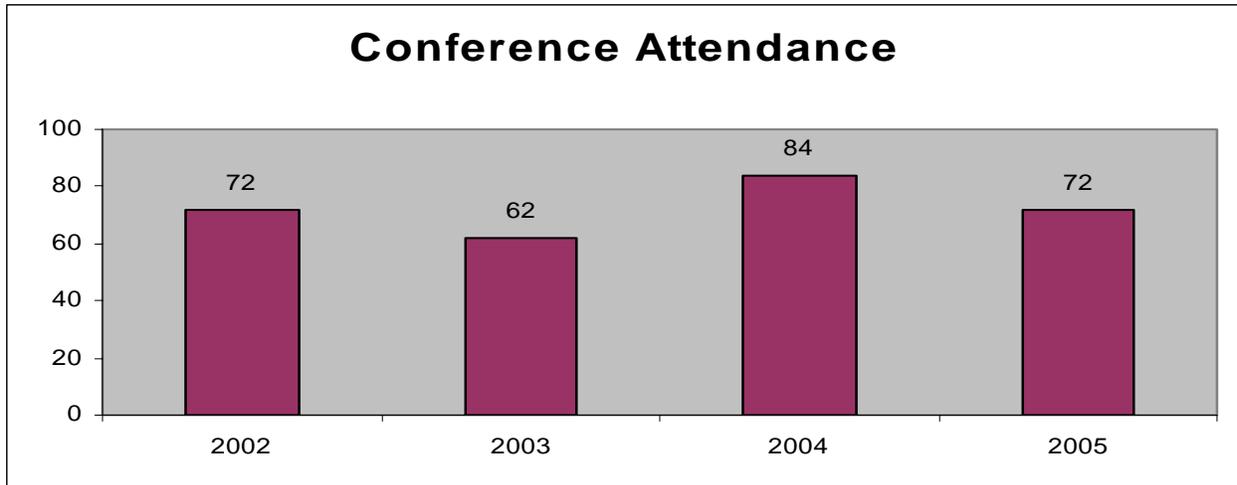
We rely on surpluses from our conferences to provide funding for the services we provide our members. These have varied over the past five years. The years in the following graph are fiscal years. The tentative \$9,000 surplus from the recent SIGAda 2005 conference shows up in fiscal year 2006.



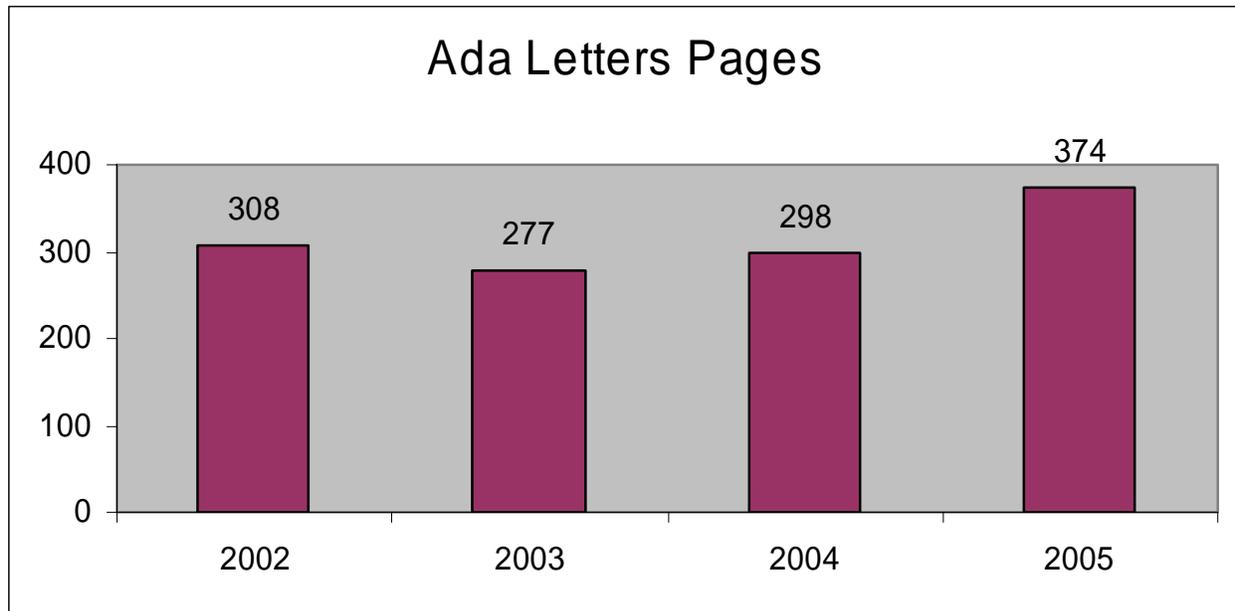
We have an enthusiastic membership. Many of you attend annual conference. According to the ACM SGB Annual Report (August 2005), SIGAda and SIGMETRICS have the highest total retention of all SIGs. Our last election had full candidate slates and two thirds of the candidates had not previously served on the SIGAda Executive Committee. We approved a

new set of Bylaws and were represented at every SGB meeting. Half of our new officers attending the ACM SIG Leader Orientation last August.

SIGAda Conferences are small but enthusiastic. As you can see from the previous graph, all have been financially successful. They are also technically successful. Analysis of the conference evaluation forms indicate that people come for technical sessions, to hear presentations by recognized speakers, and to network with others. Here is some data on attendance and presentations.



Ada letters is one of our major benefits. In addition to providing technical articles, Ada Letters provides SIGAda members with Ada Issues (AI's), Proceedings of the SIGAda Conference and Proceedings of the International Real-Time Ada Workshop. We are currently in the process of changing Ada Letters from a Quarterly to three times per year. The following graph shows the page counts of Ada Letters over the past four years.



Other benefits include things such as reduced rates at SIGAda and Ada-Europe Conferences. Academic grants for SIGAda Conference participation. theAda Awareness program in cooperation with ARA, and the Outstanding Ada Community Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Best Student Paper Award. Another important member benefit is the Participation in the evolution of the Ada programming language via a Category C Liaison Agreement with ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG9. Members have a direct connection to the development of the Ada standard normally restricted to “players with deep pockets”. Our members have made an impact.

One outcome of the time I spent preparing the slides for SIGAda's Program Review is a greater feeling of enthusiasm for SIGAda. I hope I have conveyed some of it to you.

John W. McCormick
Chair, ACM SIGAda