# *1996 SIGAda Award Winners*

It was my pleasure to honor at Tri-Ada'96 the third class of SIGAda Award winners.  This continues what we hope is now a permanent SIGAda tradition — annual awards that are recognized as the most prestigious in the Ada community.  SIGAda has two categories of competed awards:

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

For those who missed the 1994 & 1995 SIGAda Awards announcements, those winners were:

- *<u>Outstanding Ada Community Contributions:</u>* **John Barnes, Robert Dewar, John Goodenough, Jean Ichbiah, Emmett Paige Jr., Tucker Taft,** *and* **William Whitaker**
- *<u>ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award:</u>* **Chuck Engle, Mike Feldman, Mark Gerhardt, Mike Kamrad,** *and the* **SIGAda Numerics Working Group (Gil Myers, Chair)**

We are very proud to now honor seven 1996 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.)*

***<u>Christine Anderson</u>:***  Christine Anderson WAS the Ada 9X project.  As the Government (Air Force) 9X project manager, she was responsible for the contractors designing and validating Ada 9X, for the teams of reviewers, for keeping funding sold to the authorizing agencies, for enabling the ANSI and ISO standardization processes, and for planning the Government's transition to Ada 95.  Her skill at these varied duties was absolutely critical to the succseeful, on-schedule process that achieved Ada 95's ISO standardization two years ago!  She was always a willing and capable speaker at Tri-Ada and every other event where the status of the Ada 9X process needed to be known and the tough questions needed to be answered.  In fact, her leadership resulted in an unprecedented harmonious convergence process where the "tough questions" really weren't tough and were never personal or hostile.  Because of the efficient, open process she led, Christine as much as anyone deserves credit for Ada 95's timeliness and wide acceptance today.

***<u>Magnus Kempe</u>:***  *Home of the Brave Ada Programmer (HBAP)*, the Ada ammunition and information web site developed and maintained by Magnus Kempe, has been acknowledged as the Ada community's most powerful exploitation of World Wide Web potential.  Renamed *Ada Home,* this award-winning website contains many unique and excellent tools and resources to help Ada beginners and experts expand their knowledge and increase their productivity — e.g. the Hypertext rm95, an Online Bookshop, and the Ada FAQs.  Go visit at *<u>http://www.adahome.com/</u>* and see why Magnus was a popular winner! Magnus has been voted "best paper" at Ada conferences and is a frequent tutorial presenter and program participant. Just having completed his studies, look for Magnus and his company, Kempe Software Capital Enterprises, to be positive impacts on the worldwide Ada community for a long, long time to come!

***<u>Bob Mathis</u>:***  Bob Mathis served continuously as the convener of ISO WG9, responsible for Ada and Ada-related standards, from the time of the first ISO standardization of Ada 83 (in 1987) until 1996, after approval of Ada 95 (and Ada standards related to Numerics, real-time, and SQL).  WG9 is where the hard technical work on Ada standards is done.  He probably deserves this award even if he had not been the first Secretary of AdaTEC, the first Technical Director and later Director of the AJPO in the

1980's, and the first Executive Director of the Ada Resources Association in the 90's; but they make his award that much more deserved. Bob's nomination for this award was unique in that seconding nominations were submitted by the heads of almost every national delegation to WG9. Each made a slightly different point, but what I learned was that Bob is exceptionally skilled at behind-the-scenes defusing and reconciliation when potential contention arose, he has the ability to convey to participants the judgment to discriminate importances and priorities to avoid wasting time, and his style actually causes protagonists to work as allies and motivates their resolving their differences without often needing management intervention to arbitrate. (The latter point is generally true in the Ada community anyway, of which we should be proud.) Every WG9 participant I ever talked to said it was inconceivable that anyone other than Bob could have gotten the work of ISO standardization completed until at least 2 years later. Furthermore, the interpretation procedures pioneered by WG9 during this period has become the norm for international standards. Bob, along with Tucker Taft (language design) and Chris Anderson (Government project management), constitute an invaluable triumvirate whose three different types of excellent leadership gave us the success that we know as Ada 95. Now SIGAda has honored all three with richly deserved *Outstanding Ada Community Contributions* awards.

***Richard Riehle***:*: Richard as long been making a unique contribution to the advancement of Ada by being an activist outside the "mandated world" — especially, authoring articles and columns in mainstream software journals (most often *The Journal of Object-Oriented Programming)* and via strong contacts doing business in Asia (and other places) via his company, AdaWorks. He is an active Team_Ada member, contributing great enthusiasm, energy, and constructive advice and pointers to efforts to champion Ada. We need more to join Richard in these kinds of outreach, even if they're not half as effective as he has been!

***Ed Colbert:*** Since I hired Ed into TRW in 1981, he has ceaselessly contributed his volunteer efforts to the Ada community at every level — helping form Los Angeles SIGAda *(the first Local SIGAda),* as SIGAda's 3-term SIGAda Vice Chair for Liaison, and by helping lead international Ada activities such as SIGAda's recent cooperations with Ada-Europe. For the past 3 years he has managed SIGAda's *Ada Awareness Initiative,* establishing our booth and its useful advocacy handouts and give-aways as one point of visibility for Ada for important constituencies beyond the "mandated" world. Since forming his own company, Absolute Software, he has distinguished himself as an Ada educator and Ada-compatible OO methodologist. But, he always has more time for SIGAda: He has just founded our Patterns Working Group.

***Anthony Gargaro:*** Quite simply, there would probably be no SIGAda today if not for Anthony's efforts as the first Chairperson of SIGAda (and the Vice Chairperson of our predecessor AdaTEC). Many people contributed organizationally in those pioneering days, but no one more than Anthony. His disciplined management style, capacity to empower and support and grow other volunteers, and ability to work within the "constraints" of ACM, combined with his respected technical abilities (especially on real-time issues) and his energetic visions for what SIGAda could accomplish, gave the leadership that led an emerging band of Ada champions to the status of a mature, growing group positively impacting the fate of Ada. His employer CSC has continued to support Anthony in other ACM roles, such as first Chair of ACM's Technical Standards Committee *(for which he received a separate award from ACM's SIG Board Chair Doris Lidtke at the end of our awards ceremony!),* and he is always a strong friend of Ada and SIGAda in these places.

***Charlene Roberts-Hayden*** : Charlene distinguished herself in a variety of visible roles during the introductory years of Ada, including being an early Ada-for-design pioneer, supporting the founding of the long-successful *Ada Technology Conference* (renamed "ANCOAT"), teaching Ada inside and outside GTE and effectively selling Ada's role in the larger worlds of software engineering and system

engineering, and as SIGAda's first Users Committee Chair who really represented real users! Charlene has almost continuously served as SIGAda's Vice Chair for Meeting and Conferences since 1979 (a record-setting 7+ years!), responsible for planning and finding the key volunteers for Tri-Ada and all other SIGAda events, and she always helps steer discussions about new SIGAda activities. We are going to miss her perspective as she finally retires as our Vice Chair this year!

***Please give all our SIGAda award winners your personal congratulations when you see them!***