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ACM SIGAda ANNOUNCES 2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Technical Contributions and Distinguished Service Recognized

NEW YORK, NY, November 16, 2020 - ACM's Special Interest Group on Ada (SIGAda) today announced the recipients of the Robert Dewar Award for Outstanding Ada Community Contributions and the ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award.

2020 ACM SIGAda Robert Dewar Award for Outstanding Ada Community Contributions

This year SIGAda recognizes the following team with the Robert Dewar Award: **Randy Brukardt,** RR Software; **Steve Baird,** AdaCore; and **Jeff Cousins**, formerly at BAE Systems (all are members of the Ada Rapporteur Group).

Working collaboratively, though in different roles (Baird and Cousins with the Ada Rapporteur Group, and Brukardt as the Editor of the Ada standard) this team shepherded the 202X revision of the Ada standard to (near) completion through almost a decade of challenging, exacting, and in some cases controversial efforts.

Their work contributed to full support for lightweight parallelism, along with first class support for user-defined data structures with user-defined literals, image attributes, aggregates, parallel iterators, and other capabilities, and improved specification capabilities for pre/postconditions, global variable usage, and the potential for blocking. These efforts have maintained Ada's position as a preeminent, safe, secure, high performance, and high productivity language for the most critical software-intensive systems.

2020 ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award

S. Tucker Taft, AdaCore
Apart from being heavily involved with the Ada programming language and its evolution for decades, S. Tucker Taft (Tuck) has been very active in ACM SIGAda. Initially Taft presented papers and tutorials at SIGAda conferences. Since 2013 he has also served as Vice Chair in SIGAda's Executive Committee.

Taft has been the driving force in establishing the High Integrity Language Technology (HILT) series of events. As part of these efforts, he launched the 2012 and 2013 HILT conferences in Boston and Pittsburgh, as the continuation of SIGAda's annual international conferences. He was program co-chair of the first HILT conference in 2012, and program chair of the second and third HILT conferences in 2013 and 2014. Later he was involved with the biennial 2016, 2018, and 2020 HILT events as the program co-chair of all three workshops. In response to the COVID pandemic, Taft organized this year's virtual HILT workshop, co-located with the SPLASH 2020 conference.

For his broad service to SIGAda, and especially for his tireless efforts to create and organize the HILT series of events and make them visible to a wider audience, Taft is recognized with ACM SIGAda's Distinguished Service Award.

About the Robert Dewar Award for Outstanding Ada Community Contributions
Formerly known as SIGAda's Ada Community Contributions Award, the Award is named in honor of the late Robert Dewar. A Professor of Computer Science at New York University, Dewar was one of the architects of the Ada/Ed compiler, which served as an operational definition of the Ada 83 language, and he later led the team that designed and implemented the GNAT compiler technology for Ada 95. Together with several colleagues from NYU, Dewar founded AdaCore (then Ada Core Technologies) to productize GNAT for commercial users of Ada 95 and also to make GNAT binaries available free of charge to academic institutions and others developing non-proprietary software. Other past recipients of this award include Jean Ichbiah, the head of the design team for the original Ada language; and Tucker Taft, the head of the Ada 95 revision team.

About the ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award
ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals for exceptional contributions to SIGAda activities & products. Past recipients of the Distinguished Service Award have included John A. Hamilton Jr., who served as the Chair of the Ada Software Engineering Education Team (ASEET), and James C. "J.C." Morrison, who founded and led the company, Ada Solutions.

About ACM SIGAda
ACM SIGAda is a professional society focused on the Ada language and its many aspects including standardization, development environments, usage/experience, implementation, and education. SIGAda holds a biennial conference or workshop on High Integrity Language Technology and publishes Ada Letters, twice a year.

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