

Report from



*The
SIGAda
Awards
Committee*

2000 SIGAda AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Ada Community Contributions

Randy Brukardt

(RR Software)

Erhard Ploedereder

(Univ. of Stuttgart)

Joyce Tokar

(DDC-I)

SIGAda Distinguished Service Award

David Harrison

(Logicon)

Past Winners (1994-1999)

Christine Anderson
John Barnes
Ted Baker
Kenneth L. Bowles
Richard Conn
Dirk Craeynest
Robert Dewar
Dave Emery
John Goodenough
Audrey Hook

Jean Ichbiah
Magnus Kempe
Bob Mathis
Jim Moore
Emmett Paige, Jr.
Richard Riehle
Edmond Shonberg
Tucker Taft
William Whitaker

Brad Balfour
Benjamin Brosgol
Norman Cohen
Ed Colbert
Chuck Engle
Mike Feldman
Gerry Fisher
Anthony Gargaro
Mark Gerhardt
Hal Hart

Mike Kamrad
Charlene Roberts-Hayden
SIGAda's ASIS WG
(Chaired by Currie Colket)
SIGAda's Numerics Working Group
(Chaired by Gil Myers)

It was my pleasure (in the absence of my SIGAda Awards Committee Co-Chair Ed Colbert) to honor **David Harrison, Erhard Ploedereder, Joyce Tokar, and Randy Brukardt** at our SIGAda 2000 conference at APL in Columbia, Maryland, in November as the seventh 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: (1) **Outstanding Ada Community Contributions**, recognizing broad, lasting contributions to the overall state of Ada technology and usage, and (2) **ACM SIGAda Distinguished Service Award**, recognizing exceptional “volunteer” contributions to SIGAda activities and products.

Each award winner has made multiple distinguished contributions in the Ada community or SIGAda. In most of 2000’s cases, their contributions fit both award categories but it was generally clear for which award they should be honored. Some of their highlight accomplishments are summarized below, based on citations from their nominations.

Randy Brukardt: Randy has almost single-handedly kept the Ada validation and Ada language maintenance operation going. Through his role as head of the Ada Compiler Assessment Authority (ACAA) and as primary support person for the Ada Rapporteur Group (ARG) he has kept the ACATS (aka ACVC) test suite up to date, managed the "AI" process (official language interpretations), produced the Language Corrigendum, converted an updated RM into a "modern" text processing system, egged on the ARG members to do their work, etc. Without Randy's efforts, one could safely say that Ada validation and language maintenance would have reached a virtual standstill. Long before these recent activities, Randy was co-developer of the popular “Janus Ada” compiler in the 1980s, a low-cost, lightweight alternative compiler that helped hook many early Ada aficionados. And, Randy has frequently willingly given of his time as a volunteer in SIGAda activities. For broad, highly effective contributions with critical impact to Ada and SIGAda, it is my pleasure to recognize a friend, Randy Brukardt, as recipient of a 2000 SIGAda Award for Outstanding Ada Community Contributions!

David Harrison: David Harrison has been active in local SIGAda Chapter organizing and events almost since the founding of AdaTEC in the early 1980s. He was also an early volunteer to staff the SIGAda booth when we started the SIGAda “Ada Awareness Initiative” in the early 1990's. After years of continual low-visibility contributions such as those, in 1997 he volunteered to host and chair Tri-Ada'97 in St. Louis, a monumentally important and visible job that he performed admirably. Since 1997, he has served as Publicity Chair and Webmaster for every SIGAda conference, and has contributed more effort (and guidance to others) in the implementation of those conferences than any other conference officer; I know this because I too got sucked into key posts on all those conferences, along the way developing a great friendship with this like-minded Ada workaholic. He has performed his SIGAda conference duties mostly single-handedly, never missing a beat on his SIGAda responsibilities, and his responsiveness to needed actions indicates that he prioritizes SIGAda conference contributions above vacations, and probably sometimes above family and work. David Harrison’s tireless efforts on SIGAda conferences and in other activities richly earn him the 2000 SIGAda Distinguished Service Award!

Erhard Ploedereder: Erhard’s nomination and selection correct what I think many regard as an injustice in the history of SIGAda awards – before 2000 he was never nominated for a SIGAda award, and that he received a *record* number of nominations in 2000 suggests that many of us were not thinking straight in past years. Erhard has been involved for many, many years in many activities that might not have been very visible to most Ada users as such, but his detailed and thorough work has been and **is** of critical value for the Ada community as a whole. In the 1980’s, in addition to becoming involved with the original Ada language definition and standardization processes as an Ada 83 Distinguished Reviewer, he was a lead designer of the Common APSE Interface Set (CAIS), a modern framework (middleware) for Ada environments, as part of the DoD’s KAPSE Interface Team and its industry/academia adjunct

(KITIA); at this time he was Chief Engineer at Tartan Labs. Erhard also provided the leadership for the robust process of Ada language interpretation that sets Ada apart from other languages. In the 1990s, Erhard was head of the Ada 9X Distinguished Reviewers, and continues as head of the Ada Rapporteur Group. He has managed an extraordinarily contentious, outspoken group of reviewers and Rap'ers for the past 10 years, and successfully focused and stewarded the development and release of the Ada 95 standard, and the first official Corrigendum of the standard, and is continuing his excellent leadership as we move into developing and refining the first major round of "amendments" to the standard since 1995. Erhard's good humor and judicious leadership have been essential to the process, and it is likely that without him Ada 9X arguments would still be ongoing. Last year, Erhard was the editor for the Ada Conformity Assessment standard that makes the transition from a DoD compiler validation process to a public conformity assessment process. He has also been an active participant in Ada-Europe. He currently chairs the Programming Languages and Compilers Department in the University of Stuttgart's Institut für Informatik. Erhard's dignified manner, quiet strength, and mastery of technical details have made him a strong leader in all these endeavors.

In short, for his years of peerless leadership and participation in many Ada endeavors of critical value for the Ada community, all of which have been bettered by his detailed and thorough efforts, I am very pleased to personally recognize our earnest, distinguished colleague and my good friend Erhard Ploedereder with a 2000 SIGAda Award for Outstanding Ada Community Contributions!

Joyce Tokar: Joyce Tokar is Vice President of Technology at DDC-I, where she directs the research and development of technology, including continuing still as a tireless champion of Ada. Joyce has been working with Ada, Ada 95, and embedded technology for over 15 years. During this time she has focused primarily on the design and implementation of efficient runtime systems for embedded processors such as the PowerPC, the i960, and the 1750a. In some instances this included demonstrating compliance with FAA DO-178 requirements. Joyce is the head of the US Technical Advisor Group (TAG) to ISO Working Group 9, the group that is responsible for the definition and evolution of the Ada language. She is a member of the Ada Rapporteur Group and has served in various roles within SIGAda and the Ada9X Project. She has been a regular participant in the International Real-Time Ada Working Group (IRTAWG) where she has contributed to the definition and standardization of the Ravenscar Profile; a tasking subset of Ada 95 that is suitable for use in safety critical and high integrity real-time systems. Additionally, Joyce has been one of the Ada community's most prolific authors, producing a large number of papers and reports and presenting dozens of times worldwide, mostly in the area of the Ada programming language and real-time, embedded systems. With Ada criticized for years for under-exposure outside our narrow insiders' community, Joyce sets an example that more of us should follow.

Personally, I think Joyce Tokar's recognition with a SIGAda award is also long overdue, and I am very pleased to honor her with a 2000 SIGAda Award for Outstanding Ada Community Contributions!