A History of SIGAPL's Outstanding Contribution Award Recipients

Year of award	Recipient	Presented at
1983	Adin D. Falkoff	APL83 at Washington, DC
1984	Garth H. Foster	APL84 at Helsinki, Finland
1985	Dan Dyer Ian P. Sharp	APL85 at Seattle, Washington
1986	Raymond Tisserand Clark Wiedmann Alex Morrow	APL86 at Manchester, England
1987	Eugene E. McDonnell	APL87 at Dallas, Texas
1988	Allen J. Rose	APL88 at Sydney, Australia
1989	Philip Van Cleave	APL89 at New York City
1990	Raymond P. Polivka	APL90 at Copenhagen, Denmark
1991	Philip Abrams	APL91 at Stanford, California
1992	(no award presented)	
1993	James A. Brown	APL93 at Toronto, Ontario
1994	Donald B. McIntyre	APL94 at Antwerp, Belgium
1995	Peter Donnelly John Scholes	APL95 at San Antonio, Texas
1996	Roger Hui	APL96 at Lancaster, England
1997	John McPherson	APL TOT Conference at Hoboken, New Jersey
1998	William Rutiser	APL99 at Scranton, Pennsylvania
1999	Roy Sykes, Jr.	APL99 at Scranton, Pennsylvania
2000	Lynne C. Shaw	APL-Berlin-2000 in Berlin

The SIGAPL Board extends its sincere thanks to Soliton Associates for their generosity in underwriting the cost of this award.

The SovAPL Award for Excellence in APL

—by Alexander Skomorokhov
Chairman of SovAPL
The Russian Chapter of ACM SIGAPL
Obninsk, Russia

SovAPL, THE RUSSIAN CHAPTER OF ACM SIGAPL, is pleased to announce that the first SovAPL Award for Excellence in learning and using APL was presented in 2000 to **Marina Vrajnova**.

Marina Vrajnova started to learn APL in 1997 during her fourth year of studies at the Institute of Nuclear Power Engineering in Obninsk, Russia. Her main specialty was Nuclear Power Plant Diagnostics, but she demonstrated an interest in APL from the very beginning of the APL course. The two instructors, the lecturer, and the computer class teacher recognized her immediately and independently as the best student from the group of 25.

She earned excellent marks in all her tests and soon she, together with two other students from this group, accepted a consulting project, the development of the "back-office" software for a Russian brokerage company located in Moscow. It had to be done without detracting from her intensive studies at the Institute, using only free time and weekends. The supervisor of the project was Alexei Zalivin, know to the APL community as the contributor of the Dyalog APL interface to OpenGL graphics. He said that Marina's productivity was more than the two other persons together and signed them off. They finished the project and Marina alone di tech support, system maintenance,
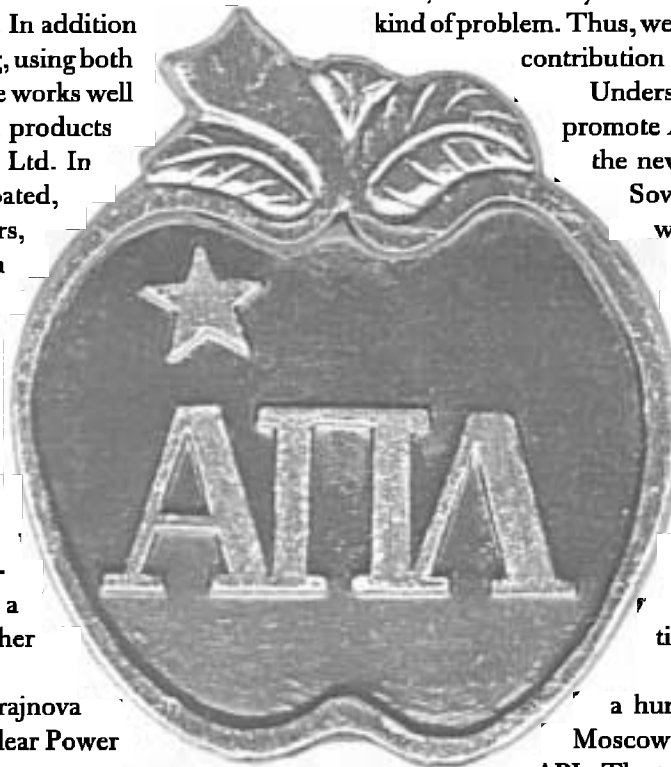

Marina Vrajnova receives the SovAPL Award from Professor Skomorokhov

Alexander Skomorokhov announces the recipient of the first SovAPL Award at the APL-Berlin-2000 Conference

Engineering. Her master's thesis was on Data Mining programming in APL. A week after that event, Marina gave birth to her daughter. We hope that this little girl will be nominated for a SovAPL Award sometime in the future!

Background of the award

At the APL99 conference in Scranton, USA, Jon McGrew donated to SovAPL, the Russian Chapter of ACM SIGAPL, a significant amount of money to help promote APL in Russia.

The SovAPL committee discussed many ways of using the unexpected funds. We have known Jon McGrew very well for more than ten years, first as IBM APL2 developer, and then as an APL teacher. We are also very delighted with his efforts as the *APL Quote Quad* co-editor. And we always enjoy his writings on APL. Many classes of Russian students used his book, *"An Introduction to APL2"*, as the main book to get started with APL. And last, but not least, we appreciate his human qualities, his love of APL, and his ability and willingness to help at any time with any kind of problem. Thus, we are very grateful that he has made this contribution to help us promote APL in Russia.

Understanding that the best investment to promote APL is to invest in people, especially the newcomers, we decided to present the SovAPL Award to the Russian student with the best record in learning and using APL. This initiative was announced publicly for the first time at the APL-Berlin-2000 Conference.

The SovAPL Award winner will be selected each May, at the end of the teaching year from among the APL students at the Institute of Nuclear Power Engineering in Obninsk, Russia or at any of the other Russian institutions where APL is taught.

and modification for one more year. In addition to "pure" Dyalog APL programming, using both its mathematic content and GUI, she works well with Causeway, NewLeaf and Rain products from Causeway Graphical Systems Ltd. In her fifth year of studies she participated, together with five other team members, in a large project for the German company DATEV eG. Her duties included GUI and SQL programming and writing programs to generate and print reports. She demonstrated good organization and responsibility for her work and had the ability to understand the whole task. Owing to her communicative character and cheerful disposition, she was capable of working in a team and was always ready to help her colleagues.

In February 2000, Marina Vrajnova graduated from the Institute of Nuclear Power

Obninsk is a scientific center, located a hundred kilometers to the South from Moscow, well known as the Capital of Russian APL. The town has a long history of using APL in development and teaching, which started in the '70s. The largest proportion of Russian participants and papers for the last ten APL conferences was from Obninsk. Today, Obninsk has the largest population of APL people using APL in science and industry and doing international consulting projects in APL. Also, Obninsk is the headquarters of the Russian Chapter of SIGAPL. ∎

Alexander Skomorokhov is the Chairman of SovAPL, the Russian Chapter of ACM SIGAPL, located in Obninsk, Russia. He can be reached at "askom@obninsk.com".

The Spandau Castle courtyard crowd at the award announcements