

**SIGPLAN FY '06 Annual Report**  
**July 2005—June 2006**  
**Submitted by: Jack W. Davidson, SIGPLAN Chair**

## **Overview**

SIGPLAN had a very strong year with excellent attendance at conferences and workshops. Conference attendance has grown somewhat over the past year. We believe the growth in conference attendance is due in part to the number of co-located conferences and workshops at the major SIGPLAN conferences (PLDI, POPL, ICFP and OOPSLA).

SIGPLAN's financial situation is strong and we are funding a number of initiatives. We are subsidizing the upcoming HOPL conference so that the program committee can meet and work to make the final papers suitable for archival publication. We are also supporting various projects in conjunction with ACM's History Committee (described in more detail below). We continue to provide scholarships for student authors to attend SIGPLAN-sponsored conferences.

A good resource for viewing our activities is the SIGPLAN web page at:  
<http://www.acm.org/sigplan>.

## **Conferences**

We sponsored a large number of conferences and workshops in 2006. The major conferences were PLDI, POPL, ICFP, OOPSLA, LCTES, VEE, and PPOPP. We are pleased to report the growth in the number of workshops that SIGPLAN is holding in conjunction with its conferences. For example, at POPL 2006 (held in Charleston, SC), there were the following affiliated events:

- \* Foundations and Developments of Object-Oriented Languages (FOOL/WOOD)
- \* Partial Evaluation and Semantics-Based Program Manipulation (PEPM)
- \* Practical Applications of Declarative Languages (PADL)
- \* Programming Language Technologies for XML (PLAN-X)
- \* Semantics, Program Analysis and Computing Environments for Memory Management (SPACE 2006)
- \* Verification, Model Checking and Abstract Interpretation (VMCAI)

Similarly, at PLDI 2006 (held in Ottawa, Canada), there were the following affiliated events:

- \* International Symposium on Memory Management (ISMM)
- \* Conference on Languages, Compilers, and Tools for Embedded Systems (LCTES)
- \* International Conference on Virtual Execution Environments (VEE)
- \* Workshop on Transactional Memory Workloads
- \* ACM SIGPLAN Workshop on Programming Languages and Analysis for Security (PLAS)
- \* First ACM SIGPLAN Workshop on Languages, Compilers, and Hardware Support for Transactional Computing (TRANSACT)

These co-located events no doubt contributed to the strong attendance at our flagship conferences. Both POPL and PLDI had over 300 attendees. The number of co-locate events (especially new workshops) is indicative of vibrancy of the programming language research community.

## **Awards**

SIGPLAN made the following awards in 2006.

- \* 2006 SIGPLAN Programming Languages Achievement Award: Ron Cytron, Jeanne Ferrante, Barry Rosen, Mark Wegman, and Kenneth Zadeck

- \* 2006 SIGPLAN Distinguished Service Award: Hans Boehm
- \* Most Influential 1996 PLDI Paper Award: TIL: A Type-Directed Optimizing Compiler for ML, by David Tarditi, Greg Morrisett, Perry Cheng, Christopher Stone, Robert Harper, and Peter Lee
- \* Most Influential 1996 POPL Paper Award: Points-to Analysis in Almost Linear Time, Bjarne Steensgaard

OOPSLA is considering instituting an award patterned after our existing "Most Influential Paper Awards." These are retrospective awards given to recognize a paper published ten years ago that had significant impact.

### **Other programs**

SIGPLAN is sponsoring several projects with ACM History Committee. We have funded the capture of an oral history from Jean Sammet. We are also funding the transcription of interviews with Ralph Griswold (creator of SNOBOL and ICON) that were taken in 1972. We have also approved capturing oral histories of John McCarthy, Tony Hoare, and Adele Goldberg. These oral histories will appear in the Digital Library.

### **Key issues for next 2-3 years**

Over the past few years, we have made several adjustments to the cost of SIGPLAN membership. However, the membership dues that include receiving a copy of SIGPLAN Notices in the mail still do not cover the mailing costs. We are considering moving materials that are submitted for printing in SIGPLAN Notices to the Web and using the paper copy of SIGPLAN Notices solely for the dissemination of conference proceedings. We have discussed this step with the membership at several conferences and the proposed change was received with enthusiasm.

Some of the major overseas research centers have asked SIGPLAN to consider capturing some of the major conferences (e.g., POPL and PLDI) on video and placing the talks in the digital library for subsequent access. We are exploring this concept but it brings up several issues such as the affect on attendance at the conference, copyright issues, and overall cost and sustainability. We expect to do a pilot project in the next year or so. POPL seems to be the most likely candidate conference for a trial run.

