

***For Immediate Release  
June 30, 2004, 10:00am PDT  
Seattle, Washington, USA***

### **Society Inducts New Fellows and Senior Fellows**

The International Society for Genetic and Evolutionary Computation, Inc. (ISGEC) announced today the induction of two newly-elected Fellows and two Senior Fellows. They join a group of fifteen Fellows and Senior Fellows elected in 2003, the first year in which the society created this honorary group. The ISGEC, which is the largest society organized specifically to support genetic and evolutionary computation, was formed in 2000 through the merger of the International Society for Genetic Algorithms (which was founded in 1985) and the organizing body of the Genetic Programming Conferences. Genetic and evolutionary computation looks to Darwinian evolution, natural selection, genetics, and related biological principles, abstracting ideas as the basis for development of computer programs that perform many types of search, design, machine intelligence, and optimization functions. The best known of these methods are called genetic algorithms, which are widely used in industry for solving design, search, data mining, global optimization, and other problems. Genetic programming, a newer branch of evolutionary computation, uses evolutionary principles to evolve sets of instructions for building or computing something, and has even been used to allow the computer to synthesize new, patentable designs. Other branches include evolution strategies, evolutionary programming, immune system computing, particle swarm optimization, etc.

The four new members inducted as Fellows or Senior Fellows were chosen by a balloting among all members of the society, from among a slate nominated by the society's Council of Fellows and Executive Board. "These honorees were elected by their peers in recognition of their significant and sustained contributions to the field," said David E. Goldberg, Founding Chairman of ISGEC, at the induction ceremony June 30, 2004 in Seattle, Washington. "The current class of fellows are leaders of a new global field in which thousands of computer scientists, engineers, and physical, biological, and social scientists now participate. The methods they have invented are having increasing impact across the spectrum of human endeavor from the arts to the sciences and in commerce," he continued. The newly elected Senior Fellows are Erik D. Goodman (Michigan State University and Red Cedar Technology, Inc.), chair of the society's executive board, a researcher in genetic algorithms since 1970, and vice president of a company providing evolutionary design tools for industry; and Marc Schoenauer (INRIA, Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique, France), a long-time leader in evolutionary computation in engineering optimization, and current editor in chief of the journal *Evolutionary Computation*. New Fellows are Una-May O'Reilly (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), a long-time contributor to the theory of genetic programming, a leader in creative evolutionary design, and general chair of the society's major GECCO conference in 2005, and Lee Spector (Hampshire College), author of the 2004 book *Automatic Quantum Computer Programming: A Genetic Programming Approach* and editor of many professional volumes, whose work in genetic programming, multi-agent systems, and other new forms of evolutionary computing spans a variety of applications.

The Council of Fellows to which these new inductees have been elected includes many of those considered the founders of the field – for example, John Holland (University of Michigan and Santa Fe Institute) is considered the “father of genetic algorithms;” Ingo Rechenberg (Technical University of Berlin) and Hans-Paul Schwefel (University of Dortmund) developed the principles of evolution strategies; John Koza (Stanford University) was the pioneer of genetic programming; and David Goldberg (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) wrote the 1989 book that has introduced thousands of people to genetic algorithms.

These new Fellows and Senior Fellows of ISGEC were recognized at the Annual Business Meeting of the society, June 30, 2004, during the society’s annual Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO-2004) in Seattle, Washington. This conference, which had 530 participants, is the largest in the field, and is held annually (next year, in Washington, DC, June 25-29, 2005).

(For further information, contact Erik D. Goodman, Chair of the Executive Board, International Society for Genetic and Evolutionary Computation, (517)355-6453, [goodman@msu.edu](mailto:goodman@msu.edu).)