

**THE 1996-1997 NOVAG AWARD**

*T.A. Marsland<sup>1</sup>*

ICCA President

Edmonton, Alberta

For many years the ICCA's premier annual Award has been granted to author(s) of the best contribution to computer chess. From 1988 to 1993 this award has been sponsored by the manufacturer of the Mephisto chess machines. Since 1994 it is entitled the Novag Award, after the donor of the Prize, Novag Corporated. Recently, Novag Corporated has informed us that it stops sponsoring the Award. The ICCA is negotiating with other sponsors and will inform the readers next year on this Award. The aim of the Award nominators is to identify the author(s) whose work makes the biggest contribution to computer chess in the previous year.

**THE 1997 ICCA JOURNAL AWARD**

*The Board of ICCA*

The Board of the ICCA is pleased to announce the winner of the 1997 ICCA Journal Award for the best paper in this Journal by a first-time author. For the period April 1996 to March 1997, covering the issues Vol. 19, No. 2 up to and including Vol. 20, No. 1, this award has, on the recommendation of the *ICCA Journal* Board members, been granted to Mark Brockington for his article: A Taxonomy of Parallel Game-Tree Search Algorithms, *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 19, No. 3, pp. 162-175. Mark Brockington is entitled to three Volumes of his choice of the Journal's back issues. A scientific biography of the winner will be published in Vol. 21, No. 1.

**THE PROFESSOR GAETANO SALVATORE GRANT**

*The Board of ICCA*

The Board of the ICCA is happy to honour the memory of Professor Gaetano Salvatore of the University of Naples, Italy, by offering a grant of US \$ 5,000 to an excellent student who finished a research thesis / project in 1997 in the field of algorithms for selective search. Professor Gaetano Salvatore died prematurely in July 1997. He was an outstanding pathologist, President of the Zoological Station "A. Dohrn", former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Naples, member of the Italian Accademia dei Lincei, a Fogarty Scholarship recipient, and a very enthusiastic member of the ICCA. The grant has been initiated by Dr Marisa Salvatore, Professor Salvatore's wife, and Drs Francesco and Mauro Guarracino, close friends of his, who all live in Naples.

Students can apply for the grant, or can be recommended by their professors, by submitting a contribution in the field of *algorithms for selective search* to the *ICCA Journal*. The Board of the ICCA will, in cooperation with Mr. Guarracino, decide on the best contribution. The winner will be announced in the 1998 June issue of the *ICCA Journal*.

Contributions and general information on potential applicant(s) can be sent to: *ICCA Journal*, Professor H.J. van den Herik, Universiteit Maastricht, Department of Computer Science, P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 1998.

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<sup>1</sup> University of Alberta, Computing Science Department, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2H1.  
Email: Tony.Marsland@ualberta.ca.