



American Society for Cybernetics

The Special Award of the American Society for Cybernetics
is made to

Randall Whitaker

Randall Whitaker holds degrees in anthropology, psychology, computer science and informatics. He has been a senior systems analyst for the Swedish government, an assistant professor and Adjunct Researcher in the Department of Informatics Umeå Universitet, Sweden, and is currently a senior human factors researcher in the defence sector. His own work is exemplified by the paper “Information Warfare, Languaging, and Second-Order Cybernetics” whose theme is seen in the statement “Because information warfare concerns observing (as contrasted with ‘observed’) systems, it represents an emergent global issue which second-order cybernetics is uniquely qualified to address.”

He has had a long and deep relationship with the ASC, originally motivated by his focus on Maturana and Varela’s work. As the Society’s first elected officer dedicated to online affairs, he maintained and developed ASC’s website for nearly a decade. He wrote much of the material on the site, including the authoritative history of cybernetics. He participated in formulating and implementing internal ASC operational processes, introduced and maintained the Society’s internal communications venues, and expanded ASC’s online capabilities while reducing costs by 75%.

Working with the ASC Executive Board and the Membership, he drafted the second-generation Society by-laws and refined them throughout the process leading to their 2010 ratification and implementation. He maintained records of ASC obligations and frequently gifted services such as web hosting to the ASC.

In awarding Randall Whitaker the special award of the American Society for Cybernetics, we salute him for his own work; and, more particularly, for his generous, intelligent and indispensable contribution to and support of the American Society for Cybernetics.

Ranulph Glanville

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President of the American Society for Cybernetics
2011.08.11