



## IFORS' Operational Research Hall of Fame

In 2003, IFORS created the Operational Research Hall of Fame. The IFORS official journal, *International Transactions in Operational Research* (ITOR), has published a brief biography of a newly inducted member of the OR Hall of Fame in each issue for the last four years. This has given an opportunity to celebrate significant contributions made to OR. The credit for proposing this celebratory project goes to ITOR editorial board member and former IFORS President, Heiner Muller-Merbach.

The inductees into the Hall of Fame were chosen by votes from a panel. Fifty individuals plus all presidents of IFORS member societies were invited to be members of this selection panel. The 50 individuals consisted of the Administrative Committee of IFORS, the editors and members of the editorial board of ITOR, and seven individuals specially chosen to provide historical perspective and geographical balance.

Members of the panel were initially asked to propose 11 names for inclusion in the Hall of Fame. They were given a list of some 40 potential inductees, but it was emphasised that the list could be ignored, or looked at before or after making a selection. The choice was not restricted to those on the list. Over 90 individuals were deemed worthy of inclusion in the Hall of Fame by at least one member of the panel. By this process the first 11 inductees were determined, and their citations appeared during 2003 and 2004. In 2004 the selection panel were asked to choose the next 12 inductees in the light of those already chosen.

The full list of those inducted into the Hall of Fame is given in Table 1. It is presented in order of the number of votes cast, rather than publication date. I am very grateful to all those who have written a citation. Scrutiny of the list will make it obvious that I am particularly indebted to three individuals, Saul Gass, Jonathan Rosenhead and Maurice Kirby, who have contributed more than one citation. Furthermore, Saul Gass has been extremely helpful in suggesting possible citation writers. He made my task far less onerous than it might have been. It can also be seen that I was tougher with the writers of the early citations in terms of length. It should not be inferred that the significance of the inductee is proportional to the length of the citation. These citations are available at the IFORS' website: <http://www.ifors.org/hall/index.shtml>

An analysis of those inducted shows that membership in the Hall of Fame is dominated, not surprisingly, by Americans. Only four spent their working life outside the United States, and they were all Europeans, though the remarkable story of Egon Balas started in Romania. It will also not be a surprise, though for many a disappointment, that none of those chosen are women.

Chronologically the first member is Erlang, who died in 1929, two decades before the birth of OR. But, despite some concern when the project was originally proposed that those inducted would be dominated by the early pioneers, it is interesting to notice that a significant proportion of the members (nine out of the 23) are alive. George Dantzig died on May 13, 2005, two years after his citation was published. West Churchman died in 2004 as his citation was in preparation.

Table 1  
Bibliographic details of the Hall of Fame citations

Inductee	Citation author	Volume	Issue	Date	Pages
George B. Dantzig	Saul I. Gass	10	2	March 2003	191–193
Richard Bellman	Stuart Dreyfus	10	5	September 2003	543–545
Russ Ackoff	Maurice Kirby and Jonathan Rosenhead	12	1	January 2005	129–134
Philip McCord Morse	John D.C. Little	10	3	May 2003	307–309
Patrick Blackett	Maurice Kirby	10	4	July 2003	405–407
John D. C. Little	Richard C. Larson	11	3	May 2004	361–364
C. West Churchman	Richard O. Mason	11	5	September 2004	585–588
Leonid Kantorovich	Jonathan Rosenhead	10	6	November 2003	665–667
Agner Krarup Erlang	Jakob Krarup	11	1	January 2004	117–119
Herbert Simon	Arjang A. Assad	11	4	July 2004	479–484
Al Tucker	Saul I. Gass	11	2	March 2004	239–242
Harold W. Kuhn	Guillermo Owen	11	6	November 2004	715–718
Ralph Gomory	Ellis L. Johnson	12	5	September 2005	539–543
Delbert Ray Fulkerson	Robert G. Bland and James B. Orlin	12	3	May 2005	367–372
John von Neumann	Saul I. Gass	13	1	January 2006	85–90
Hugh Miser	Michael H. Rothkopf	12	2	March 2005	259–262
Egon Balas	Graham Rand	13	2	March 2006	169–174
Stafford Beer	Jonathan Rosenhead	13	6	November 2006	577–581
Kenneth Arrow	Gonçalo L. Fonseca and Graham Rand	12	4	July 2005	473–478
William W. Cooper	Rajiv D. Banker	13	4	July 2006	379–383
Abraham Charnes	Fred Phillips and Larry Seiford	13	3	May 2006	273–277
Howard Raiffa	Ralph L. Keeney	12	6	November 2005	631–634
Jay Forrester	David Lane	13	5	September 2006	483–492

Managing this Hall of Fame on behalf of IFORS, indeed on behalf of the OR community, has been a great honour. It is hoped that, in a few years, someone else will take up the mantle, so that others are honoured for their work in our field.

### **Graham Rand**

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