

Liber Amicorum for Jan Karel Lenstra  
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Jan Karel was my colleague at Georgia Tech for nearly two years, far too short of a time. CWI is to blame for his unfortunate departure from Georgia Tech. I remember Jan Karel coming to my office and telling me that he just got offered his "dream job" and from the twinkle in his eye I know that his time at Tech was over. Of course, our loss was CWI's gain.

I first met Jan Karel at the Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE) in Leuven, Belgium in 1976. I had heard of the reputation of this young Dutch combinatorial optimizer and invited him to give a seminar at CORE. We quickly became friends and when I was elected as Chair of the Mathematical Programming Society I asked Jan Karel to stay on as Chair of the Executive Committee. He then succeeded me as Chair of the Society. Later Jan Karel joined me as Series co-Editor of the Handbooks of Operations Research and Management Science and as co-Editor-in-Chief of Operations Research Letters.

Jan Karel is the most impeccably organized person I have ever known. His attention to detail is amazing. With his tiny handwriting, he could take more notes on one page of a small pad than I could on the three legal-sized pages. And he could put his information to work. With his exquisite knowledge of people in the field and his excellent taste and judgment, he would choose the best young researchers to invite as Associate Editors. I'm sure this carried over to his leadership position at CWI.

Vakgenoten

Many of my colleagues and I at Tech had hoped he would become the Chair of our School and I know it would be a far better place now if Jan Karel had been its leader.

I have nothing but great praise for Jan Karel's professional accomplishments, but my favorite thing about him is his wry sense of humor.

I can't imagine Jan Karel retiring. He is far too energetic and his wisdom will be greatly missed. Jan Karel, now that you have more time, please come visit us in Atlanta again and be sure to bring Karen and the kids.

Best Wishes,

George