

To Jan Karel

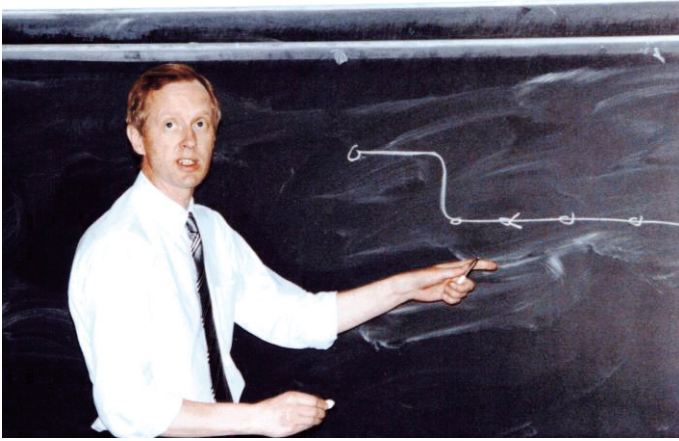
Jan Karel and I have known each other for a long time. The first time we met must have been in Bonn in the early eighties, when I still lived in the Netherlands. He was already famous, while I just got acquainted with scheduling and complexity theory. His work together with Alexander Rinnooy Kan and Gene Lawler fascinated me, and I remember that Franz Josef Radermacher and I convinced Jan Karel to give a course on scheduling at the Technical University of Aachen. I volunteered to be his teaching assistant and thus got first class knowledge about the area.

Jan Karel became my “Dutch connection” when I moved away from Aachen. We worked together for the Mathematical Programming Society (MPS) in the early nineties, jointly participated in PhD committees in Eindhoven and Berlin (Albert Wagelmans, Markus Schäffter, Petra Schuurman, Marc Uetz), set up the MAPSP series of conferences and encouraged mutual visits of members of our groups. I still remember the first MAPSP conference in Villa Vigoni in 1992, where he introduced Karen to the scheduling community. Six year later, at MAPSP IV in Renesse, they proudly presented their daughter Elisabeth.

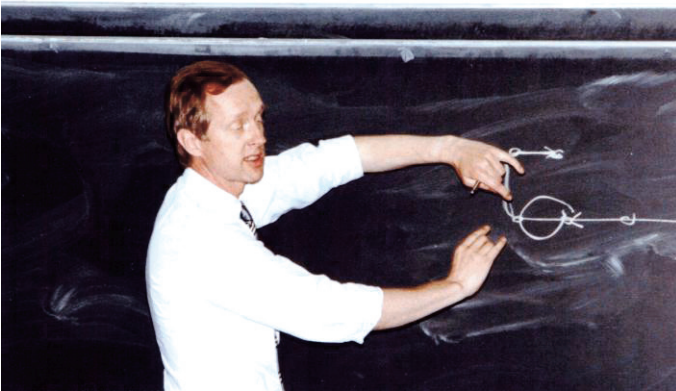
Two characteristics of Jan Karel that I find most distinctive are his talent for organizational matters and his ability to attract young and talented people to our area. He was the memory of MPS with his small booklet filled with meticulous notes, raised enormous amounts of money for the conferences that he organized and could give wonderful lectures on wonderfully designed handwritten slides that fascinated his audience. He came to Berlin many times as an invited speaker, at the Berlin Algorithm Day, in our Graduate Program, and also as a lecturer at the influential 1996 Summer School on “Approximation Algorithms and Combinatorial Optimization”. Seven participants became a professor in that area: Thomas Erlebach, Arie Koster, Ekkehard Köhler, Jörg Rambau, Matthias Müller-Hannemann, Andreas Schulz, Martin Skutella.

The pictures below are from one such occasion, the Berlin Algorithm Day in 1991. He hasn't changed that much ever after.

Rolf Möhring



Berlin Algorithm Day (1991)



Berlin Algorithm Day (1991)



Berlin Algorithm Day (1991)