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## EDITORIAL



The Editorial Board of the Prague Bulletin of Mathematical Linguistics deeply regrets to announce that we have lost a most respectful member of the Board, Professor Aravind Joshi.

Aravind K. Joshi (born August 5, 1929, died December 31, 2017), the Henry Salvatori Professor Emeritus of Computer and Cognitive Science, a founding co-director of the former Institute for Research in Cognitive Science (IRCS) at the University of Pennsylvania and a recipient of numerous honors and awards (such as Honorary Doctorate of Charles University in Prague – 2013, Benjamin Franklin Medal in Computer and Cognitive Science of the Franklin Institute – 2005, Cognitive Science Society David Rumelhart Prize – 2003, ACL Lifetime Achievement Award – 2002, NAE Member – 1999, ACM Fellow – 1998, Founding Fellow AAAI – 1990, IEEE Fellow – 1976), has been a distinguished member of the whole research community, highly appreciated for his intellectual curiosity and his enthusiasm. He has been an inspiration for dozens of his PhD students and colleagues working all over the world.

The scope of his own research interests was very wide, covering the field of Computational Linguistics, Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence, paying due attention to the issues at the intersection of these fields and with extensions beyond these fields (cf. e.g. his long-time interest in macromolecular structures).

Our first face-to-face meeting with Professor Joshi was at COLING in 1969 in Sweden and we have been in contact since then, as much as the political restrictions in our country allowed. After the positive political changes in Central and Eastern Eu-

rope in 1989, the contacts intensified and we have been meeting regularly in Prague, Philadelphia and at conferences all over the world. Since the time he joined the Editorial Board of the Prague Bulletin, our professional contacts have become even more intensive and we have always appreciated his advice, suggestions and initiative.

There are at least three particular points of intersection of professional interests between his scholarly work and research carried out at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, some of which go as back as to the late sixties.

In those times Petr Sgall and his collaborators in Prague formulated an original type of generative description of language, the Functional Generative Description. One of the important issues was the discussion of the generative power of such a description. For us, Aravind's work on the so-called mildly context-sensitive grammar formalism was most inspirational and supportive because the formalism developed in our group was very close to such a concept.

Later on, when Professor Joshi formulated his Tree Adjoining Grammar formalism, we have profited much from his insights into the relation between his formalism and the dependency grammar we subscribe to.

Last but not least, and most important especially for the young team working on discourse, was his elucidation and application of Centering Theory and the build-up and development of the Penn Discourse Treebank. The content of this work laid the foundations for the Czech-American collaborative project on discourse analysis and annotation and offered an unforgettable opportunity for us to put our hands, so to say, on the Penn Discourse Treebank during our trips to Philadelphia, and to enjoy his and his colleagues' visits to Prague.

Professor Aravind Joshi was a great scientist, a wonderful teacher and a remarkable personality. His passing away is a great loss for the whole community. Computational linguists will miss him terribly as a respectful scientist, innovator in many areas, a mentor of young colleagues and students, and most of us also as a very modest, kind, calm and charming friend.

While we all will miss him, his everlasting kind smile will stay in our memories forever.

The PBML