

Bridging Logic and Computer Science: to Johann A. Makowsky for his 60th birthday

This issue is dedicated to Johann or, as his friends call him, Janos Makowsky on the occasion of his 60th birthday celebrated in March 2008.

Student of Ernst P. Specker, Janos graduated from ETH Zurich in 1974, just at the time when the emerging field of computer science started to challenge the imagination of mathematical logicians. Driven by mathematical beauty and always open to new ideas, Janos contributed to a remarkable variety of topics where logic and computer science meet. From generalized quantifiers to dynamic logic, from Horn formulas to databases, from the spectrum problem to complexity, from model theory to graph polynomials... this list could be continued. His logical view of combinatorial polynomials has proved extremely fruitful, and inspired a lot of research of his students and collaborators; surely the “gold mine” will still be productive.

As a teacher, Janos does not limit himself to the technical matters, but searches for the ultimate goals of learning mathematics as *a technique to face the world and to face ourselves*, what you may read in a *Manifesto* on his home page.

Since many years, Janos Makowsky invested much of his time and energy to serve the community of computer science logic. As a president of the *European Association of Computer Science Logic* in 2004–2009, he created the Ackermann Award for outstanding dissertation in logic in computer science, which has established the highest benchmark of doctoral dissertations in the field. Since 2005, the winners present their work at the annual conferences of the EACSL.

A symposium *Bridging Logic and Computer Science* on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Janos Makowsky was held in Bertinoro in September 2008, organized by Michael Kaminski, Ugo Dal Lago, Simone Martini, and myself, followed by the *17th EACSL Annual Conference on Computer Science Logic* (CSL). The talks were given by Markus Blaeser, Thomas Colcombet, Bruno Courcelle, Erich Grädel, Michael Kaminski, Klaus Meer, Malika More, and Janos Makowsky himself.

The present issue includes some reminiscences of the talks presented at the symposium, as well as some new work. The authors dedicate it to Janos, wishing him a continuous burst of new ideas, inspirations, projects, for the sake of his personal happiness, but also for the benefit of his relatives, friends, students, and the whole academic community.

Damian Niwiński