

Eulogy for Shmuel Fishman by Nimrod Moiseyev

Shmuel and I have been close friends for over thirty-five years. I don't remember if our friendship started as a result of our scientific collaboration or if our scientific collaboration started as a result of our friendship.

Shmuel felt isolated and alone even though he was always surrounded by his research students and by his collaborators, most of whom became his personal friends. For example, on Shmuel's 65th birthday, Guy Dori and his wife invited me and Moti and our wives for a dinner to celebrate Shmuel's birthday.

Shmuel had a neat and organized way of thinking, clear and straight forward with a sharp critical ability, even on topics outside of science. Once I said to him that surely his military service was outstanding. Many years ago, when the two of us were young, we were appointed by the faculties of physics and chemistry to serve as members of the management committee for the computer center of the Technion. This was before the days of laptops and powerful personal computers, but in the times when scientific and technological computations were done only on computers located in the computer center. Among the other managers of the computer center were experienced and influential people at the Technion. Shmuel always came well prepared for the committee meetings, and to his credit, we youngsters were succeeded in influencing the decisions that were approved by the committee, which in turn influenced the capability of many of the scientists at the Technion to carry out their research. In preparation for a meeting in which the discussion would be devoted to the issue of connecting all of the faculty at the Technion to the computer center by means of optical fibers, Shmuel invited representatives of three companies for a preliminary meeting with us. He choose a leading and experienced company in this field, a new and small company that was "hungry" to be awarded the project, and an additional company. In interviews, Shmuel quizzed them in order to get the information necessary for making an intelligent decision. After a number of iterations with them, we decided to recommend the young company that suggested a very inexpensive way to connect the chemistry and physics faculty to the computer center, as a test demonstration of their capability, before they received the full project to connect all of the Technion to the computer center by means of optical fibers. In this way Shmuel caused our two faculties to be the

first to use optical fiber connections to the computer center, which was a great help to researchers working on theoretical computational studies in physics and chemistry.

Recently Shmuel went through a difficult period - the death of his brother, his retirement, and his suffering severe pains in his back. Until he recovered, we met frequently and spoke every day on the telephone. I happily watched him recover. Before his sudden death, he presented a request for research funding from the fund for joint research with Germany, together with Efrat Shimshoni, Dan Podolsky, and with Giovanna, who came from Germany, specially for the funeral. Shmuel also submitted a scientific paper with Hagar and their doctoral student, Sasha.

Shmuel died in his office at the Technion, sitting by his desk and speaking to Saar Rahav, a former doctoral student and now a professor of chemistry at the Technion. He died in Saar's arms, not alone, and free of pain. It is sad that he died so prematurely and hadn't even had a chance to move in and to enjoy his new apartment.

May his memory be blessed.

Nimrod Moiseyev