

Message from the Poster Chair

This year, PODC introduced the poster track. The goal of this track is to introduce another venue for presenting work in progress or results that have the potential for generating interesting discussions and exchanges of ideas, but that might not be appropriate for the long track or the brief announcement track. It is our hope that we have succeeded in our selection of posters in starting a dynamic and interesting track that enriches the PODC experience for everyone.

The posters were screened by the poster committee, but have not been formally reviewed.

Moreover, this informal collection is not intended to serve as a publication. It is expected that many of these posters will be published in the future in conferences and as journal papers.

I would like to thank all the authors who submitted posters to *PODC 2004*, to Krishnamurthy Vidyasankar who produced the Technical Report, as well as to the Department of Computer Science and the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Science, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, Canada for their support. Partial funding for PODC was provided by our sponsors HP Labs, Microsoft, and Sun Microsystems Laboratories. This support, together with the continuing sponsorship by the ACM SIGACT and SIGOPS, is gratefully acknowledged.

Rida Bazzi

PODC'04 Poster Chair

Shimon Even (1935-2004)

Shimon Even has not published much in PODC. Still, he had a large impact via many students of his who did publish in PODC. One of them, Oded Goldreich, contributed the following paragraphs.

This year, on May 1, the theoretical computer science community lost one of its most inspiring role models.

Shimon Even was born in Israel on June 15th, 1935. He produced high-quality, innovative research for more than four decades in areas as diverse as switching and automata theory, coding theory, combinatorial (e.g., graph) algorithms, complexity theory, cryptography and distributed computing. In addition to his pioneering research contributions, Shimon was a highly influential educator. He played a major role in establishing computer science education in Israel (e.g., at the Weizmann Institute and the Technion). He was the thesis adviser of more than a dozen PhD students (of whom Baruch Awerbuch and Sergio Rajsbaum are best known in the PODC community), and an informal mentor of numerous other young researchers. He was the author of two influential books, most notably “Graph Algorithms” (Computer Science Press, 1979).

Shimon Even was a great scientist and a remarkable person. His attitudes towards research have influenced anybody who was fortunate to have a close interaction with him and often left a deep mark even in researchers who just heard him lecture. Through these fortunate people, Shimon’s influence has been propagated and will continue to propagate further.

Shimon always followed his own judgment and understanding, rather than the common trend or fashion. He chose to study problems that he considered natural and important. He sought simple solutions that uncover the essence of the problem (rather than obscure it). He spent much time seeking the best way to present his own work as well as the work of others in lectures and writing. He would not compromise on any of the above attitudes, which seem all rooted in a deep commitment to truth and science.

Viewing the world as a battlefield between hope and despair, it seems that Shimon Even’s death can be “averaged” by us strengthening our commitment to his way of life: the uncompromising quest of truth.

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