

I'm not robot!

Daniel A. Menascé, 2001 A. A. Michelson Award Acceptance Speech

Jeff, thank you very much for your nice words. I must say I am really thrilled for receiving the 2001 A. A. Michelson award. The fact that this award is presented to me by Jeff Buzen and during his tenure as President of the Computer Measurement Group (CMG) is an added honor. Jeff's seminal work on efficient solution algorithms for closed queuing networks and on operational analysis was an inspiration to me and to many others. It is also an interesting coincidence that exactly 20 years ago I was presenting my first CMG paper and Jeff was a referee for that paper.

I would like to thank CMG, its Board of Directors, the A. A. Michelson Award Committee, previous Michelson award recipients, my nominator Peter Denning, and my two endorsers Jeff Buzen and Connie Smith for their various roles in the process that led to my selection as the 2001 A. A. Michelson award recipient.

During my career, I had the opportunity to collaborate with many fine and smart people and with a very large number of students. I would like to thank them all for productive interactions and prolific exchange of ideas. I cannot name them all here. But, I could not fail to mention my collaborator of over twenty years and my very good friend, Virgilio Almeida, who is my co-author in many papers and in all my books.

Receiving a lifetime achievement award makes one reflect upon the past. When I examine the achievements of the field of computer measurement and performance evaluation during the past thirty years or so, I realize that there is a lot our profession should be proud of. As computer systems evolved from the first time-sharing systems to networked client-server systems and then to Web-based information and transactional systems, we as a community came up with models, measurement approaches, and tools to help evaluate, size, and tune these systems. Unfortunately, for quite some time, these success stories and the recognition of the importance of our field were somehow circumscribed to our own discipline and to its practitioners. This fact prompted Domenico Ferrari, the 1987 A. A. Michelson award recipient, to write a paper in 1986 in which he discussed the insularity of performance evaluation (*IEEE Tr. Software Engineering, June 1986*). Things have changed with the Web. Computer systems became highly accessible to millions of users. Their performance failures became highly noticeable and became newsworthy in the non-technical media. Quality of service, measured in terms of performance and availability metrics, became essential to the success of Web and e-commerce sites.

Today, performance is no longer a concern of a few. Sound scientific techniques for performance measurement and modeling should become an integral part of the process of designing, building, and maintaining computer systems. Every computer professional, from software developers to database administrators to network engineers to systems administrators, should master the basics of quantitative performance analysis. It is with this strong belief that I have always incorporated performance evaluation methods into any of the courses I teach, even when they are not performance-related courses. In an attempt to bring quantitative performance evaluation to a much larger audience, I have

I am leaving here today with a wealth of knowledge I will always treasure. Working here has been a fantastic learning experience and a challenge for the skills I've acquired. That act of being here with you at each day has made me a more complete and well-rounded person.

I've learned how to take direction, criticism, and compliments. There are three things I want to go great at being here, and you have to be though I can apply them in many different situations.

I've also learned to be open-minded, to value other people's opinions and to consider other ideas along with mine. I've learned to be a good team player.

Being part of a team has taught me skills that I can use in more than just the professional area of my life. My interactions in a personal situation is a better place than they were. Thanks to some of the things I've learned from many of you.

I've come to realize that being a part of a team is a lot more than just sharing credit. Although that takes cooperation, when you are on a team you have to be there first, then, and most often that first, meet at the middle.

Knowing that my message is also a team effort is what is promoting this behavioral change for me.

When my spouse was offered the opportunity to relocate, I was up to me to compromise and agree to move to Florida within the country or other country to better the situation. It could have been better suited, but this is an opportunity for her that can't be passed up. As her partner and someone, I would be within of me to ask her to go to work.

My wish for everyone here is that you all continue to experience success, to feel fulfilled in all you do, and to have nothing but pleasant results with each completed project. While that may be an overly optimistic wish, I do believe.

It's been a pleasure working here and will truly miss it. I take with me the best memories, valuable skills, and hope to one day have an experience on other continents for the one you have left at me.

Thank you for this farewell party and I look forward to hearing of your future successes.

- See more at <http://web.archive.org/web/20010304071346/http://www.cmg.cmu.edu/~dmenasc/2001award/2001award-speech.html>

HUMAN RIGHTS QUIZ

1. What does every human right have?
 - a) a human left
 - b) a responsibility
 - c) a law making sure you stick to it
2. What is a law?
 - a) something that is meant to be broken
 - b) a written legal rule that says what must or must not be done
 - c) a special government department
3. What year was the Declaration of Human Rights adopted?
 - a) 1948
 - b) 1945
 - c) 1989
4. The name of the organisation that set up the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is?
 - a) United Nations
 - b) Amnesty International
 - c) Unicef
5. How many articles are there in the Declaration of Human Rights?
 - a) 5
 - b) 18
 - c) 34
6. Why do children need their own special list of rights?
 - a) because they are naughty
 - b) of they sometimes cannot look after themselves
 - c) to protect them from Mr Bucker's punishments
7. True or False: can you say its child labour when your parents ask you to clean your room or wash the dishes?
 - a) True
 - b) False
8. How many child labourers are there in the world?
 - a) 250 million
 - b) 3 million

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Oslo, Norway
December 10, 1966

Acceptance by Nelson H.D. Perera, American Envoy.

Since President Roosevelt was not present at the award ceremony on December 10, 1966, Mr. Nelson H.D. Perera, American envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Norway, accepted the prize on his behalf. Mr. Perera's speech, which included the reading of a telegram from the President, follows.

I deeply regret that my residence in your capital has been as yet too brief to enable me to address you in your own vigorous language. But "that I a thousand several tongues", they would be inadequate to express to you the deep emotion with which I appear before you to receive, on behalf of the President of the United States, this distinguished testimonial of your recognition of those acts which stamp him as preeminent in devotion to the cause of peace and goodwill on earth.

I will not vainly attempt, by any words of mine, to add to the lustre of the name of Theodore Roosevelt. His acts proclaim him, and you, Gentlemen of the Norwegian Storting, by this award of the Nobel Peace Prize, a foundation conceived in God-like love of mankind, have bestowed to the world your recognition of his wise use of his great office in the best interests of humanity.

I quote President Roosevelt's words in a telegram from him, recently received by me, when I say that he regards the award of this prize as one of the greatest honors which any man, in any position, throughout the world, can receive.

Speaking for my countrymen, I may say that this award will deeply appeal to the hearts of our people and knit closer those bonds of sympathy which unite us in the brotherhood of nations.

To me, who have enjoyed the inestimable privilege of witnessing in the course of current affairs the earnest desire with which the chief magistrate of my country is inclined to promote the cause of peace, in the interest of all mankind, when peace comports with that honorable self-respect which nations as well as individuals owe to themselves, this award seems most markedly felicitous, and I rejoice greatly in the good fortune which permits me to be the medium of transmission of this token of your appreciation of the profound love for, and lofty sense of duty to his fellowmen which is the guiding principle of his official life.

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