

In Memoriam - Dr. Arthur Sedgwick

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In Memoriam - Dr. Arthur Sedgwick

Dr. Art Sedgwick of the Faculty of Computer Science at Dalhousie passed away suddenly last Thursday while on vacation. He was 66.

Art was born in Toronto. He obtained a B. Sc. with Honours in Mathematics from the University of Toronto in 1968 where he also won the Chancellor's Medal for highest standing in Natural Sciences and Mathematics. In 1969 he obtained an M.S. in Computer Science at the University of Wisconsin. In 1972 Art obtained his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Toronto. He began his university career as a lecturer at the University of Toronto in 1972. In 1973 he joined the University of Sydney as a lecturer and obtained tenure before returning to the University of Toronto as an assistant professor in 1975. In 1977 he spent nine months at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign before his appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science at Dalhousie in 1978.

Soon after he arrived at Dalhousie the Division of Computer Science enjoyed a period of prolonged and rapid growth. During that period (the early 1980s) Art played an active and important role in the development of staffing, classes, programs and facilities for Computing Science. He designed and organized and implemented most of the courses himself and by 1982 there were more than 170 students (majors) in the program. To implement all these requirements Art had first to teach the instructors, a very time consuming job requiring considerable diplomacy. He advised all the students himself, taught regular larger classes and also taught essential classes in the summer school. In his first two years at Dalhousie he taught a remarkable 15 half courses in computer science. In 1990 he was appointed Coordinator of Cooperative Education for the Faculty of Science in addition to his other duties.

In recognition for these efforts Art was appointed as Director of the Division of Computer Science on July 1, 1992 in addition to his appointment as Assistant Professor with tenure in the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science. This meant that during the protracted discussions on university rationalization in the mid-1990s Art, as Director of the Division of Computer Science at the time, carried the ball for Dalhousie. He clearly carried it effectively. In 2002 Art was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, by now in the newly formed Faculty of Computer Science at Dalhousie.

Beyond Dalhousie, Art made significant contributions to computing and student involvement in the Atlantic Provinces. Through his work with APICS (Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences) Art used programming competitions to stimulate students' interest in Computer Science. He became chair of the Computer Science Committee of APICS and soon after affiliated the APICS Programming Contest with the worldwide American Computing Machinery (ACM) programming

competition. As a direct result of this effort teams from the Atlantic provinces have regularly competed regionally in the ACM competitions and reached the world finals three times (2002, 2003 and 2005). Recently he was honoured with a distinguished service award from the APICS successor organization Science Atlantic and has had their annual computer science lecture named after him.

In summary, Dr. Art Sedgwick has given more than 30 years of dedicated service to both Dalhousie and the broader computer science community in Atlantic Canada. In so doing, he has had a direct positive influence on students and colleagues alike. He has been front and center during some of the seminal reorganization of that community, while simultaneously carrying an above the normal teaching load and devoting hours to student advising and cooperative education. Certainly by any measure Dr. Art Sedgwick has made a remarkable contribution to Computer Science.

A celebration of Art's life will be held in the Cathedral Church of all Saints, Martello Street on Wednesday, July 18 at 2 p.m., with a reception to follow in the Goldberg Computer Science Building, 6050 University Avenue.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation. As well, an account has been set up for a fund in Art's name to support students. You can donate to the "Art Sedgwick Memorial Fund" at:

External Relations
Dalhousie University
Macdonald Building
PO BOX 15000
Halifax NS B3H 4R2
Canada

Denis Riordan, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Computer Science, Dalhousie University, with help from Porter Scobey, Mathematics and Computing Science, St. Mary's University