

Y

Y are Young Faculty, which every dept needs.
Upon their work the depts' fame proceeds.
When did the H's win Turing Awards?
When they were old, and bored, and on Boards.
When was the work that gave them reward?
Ten years from cutting their PhD 'bilical cord.

Remember, PhD is pronounced fould.

Well, Hartmanis and Hopcroft weren't really old and bored when they got their Turing Awards. The point is that elder statesman provide good solid research, experience, perspective, and leadership, but it's the young faculty that incite real excitement. The H's did their Turing Award work within ten years of their PhDs. They were young faculty. Our young faculty have always played a vital role because we do our best to hire only excellence. Here's info on some who are now within ten years of their PhD.

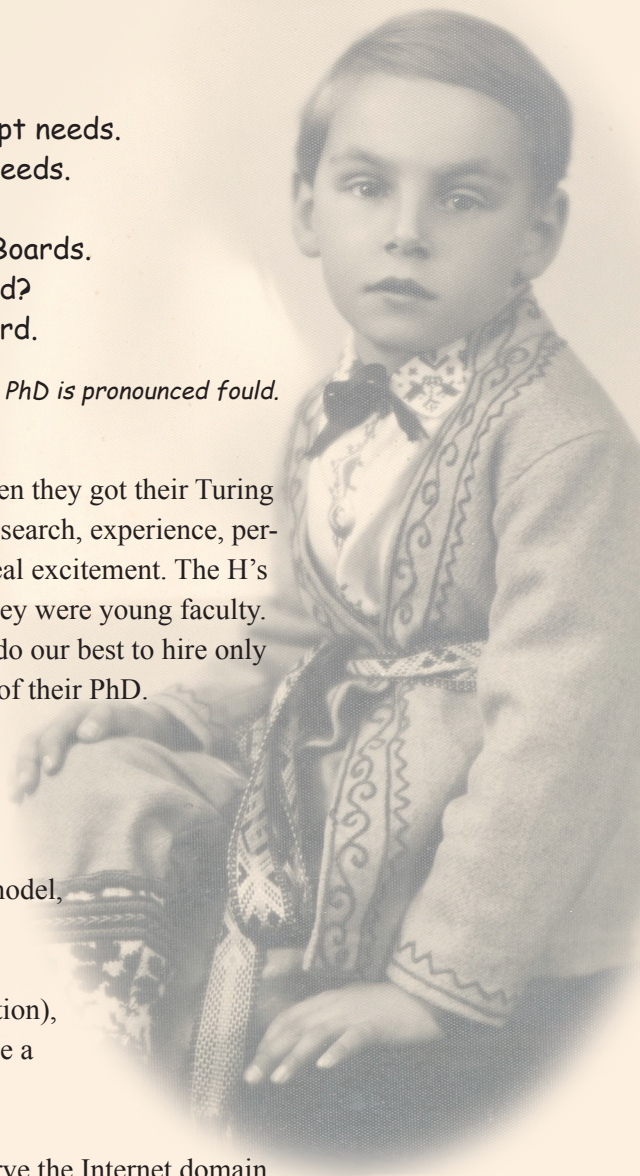
Jon Kleinberg just received a MacArthur Genius Award for his work on networks.

Steve Marschner has a technical Oscar for his skin-rendering model, used for Gollum and other movie characters.

Paul Francis is responsible for NAT (Network Address Translation), which postponed the IP address problem and allows you to have a LAN in your home.

Gün Sirer's peer-to-peer name service has been deployed to serve the Internet domain name space for all of China.

Lillian Lee and Claire Cardie are playing influential roles in sentiment analysis; their work (with colleagues) is in large part responsible for the recent huge surge of interest in the area.



Z

Z is the Zed, the Omega, the End.
And Z was indeed the last letter I penned.

I hope you found this ABC book informative and entertaining. I pat us on the back a lot, for we are a top-ranked department. We've been regarded as one of the top five ever since the first NRC ranking that included computer science, just behind CMU, Berkeley, Stanford, and MIT (alphabetical order).

But don't take rankings too seriously. Yes, there are great departments, but there are many very respectable CS departments too, and all should be commended for the job they are doing. We are all in this together, doing our share for CS and society, and none of us is indispensable.

The way I see it, just live right, do your best, but don't worry about the result—and don't take yourself too seriously.

An Indispensable Man

by Saxon N. White Kessinger, 1959

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified in the room.

Sometime when you feel that your going,
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions,
And see how they humble your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,

Pull it out and the hole that's remaining,
Is a measure of how you will be missed.

You can splash all you wish when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop and you'll find that in no time,
It looks quite the same as before.

The moral of this quaint example,
Is do just the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself but remember,
There's no indispensable man.