
In Memoriam Laurence J. Fogel

Larry Fogel, one of the pioneers of Evolutionary Computation, passed away on February 18., 2007, at the age of 78.

Larry invented Evolutionary Programming in the early '60s, and his seminal book *Artificial Intelligence through Simulated Evolution*, co-authored with Alvin Owens and Michael Walsh in 1965, is still one of the most cited sources of our field, 40 years later. But Larry was also an entrepreneur, who successfully turned his (r)evolutionary theories to practical solutions for real-world problems in the different companies that he worked with, or even, for many of them, that he founded and directed.

The list of scientific awards that Larry Fogel received during his life are witness to the widespread acknowledgments of his achievements: the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Evolutionary Programming Society in 1996, the inaugural IEEE Neural Networks Council Pioneer Award in Evolutionary Computation in 1998, the inaugural Computational Intelligence Pioneer Award from the International Society for Optical Engineering (jointly with his son David Fogel) in 2003, and most recently the inaugural 2006 IEEE Frank Rosenblatt Technical Field Award for "his pioneering work in Computational Intelligence and Evolutionary Computation".

Larry Fogel was an IEEE Life Fellow, a member of the *Evolutionary Computation* Advisory Board, and a Fellow of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Indeed, Larry showed the same enthusiasm in his hobbies as in his scientific activities, from sailplane modeling to jazz music, considering everything in life as an experiment and a chance to increase his knowledge and understanding of the world. Many of those who attended the Evolutionary Programming Conference in San Diego remember the friendly atmosphere of the Fogels' place at the closing party that followed the meeting: you could feel that this house was full of life and (live) music – this was after 3 days of intensive science!

But the most prominent memory I have of Larry is something that struck me more than most scientific events I can think of: I am sure that everyone who attended ICGA'97 in East Lansing will forever remember the invited talk that Larry gave there, and the standing ovation of the audience after he ended his brilliant presentation with an on-stage performance, enthusiastically making his point by dancing and singing (something like "Experiment, experiment, ...").

For the wonderful lessons you gave us, that day and throughout your whole life, about Evolutionary Computation, but also about Experiments and Science, and, finally, about Life: Thank you, Larry.

Marc Schoenauer
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