Yesterday at Stanford the staffs of the Heuristic Programming and SUMEX Projects met to celebrate our years with Joshua Lederberg and to wish him well in his new position as President of Rockefeller University.

It is a time of deeply-felt thanks for the endless work that he has done on our behalf, and of gratitude for the unique opportunity to share his scientific insights on problems of mutual interest over so many years.

Josh is not only one of the world’s great scientists, but also one of its great science-statesmen. Those of us who shared project management responsibilities with him were in awe of the unerring accuracy with which he was able to affect clean cuts through thickets of political, financial and institutional complexities to lead us through to desired goals.

One of the AIM scientists, who endures in a well-known interdisciplinary research institute, wrote in admiration of Josh’s role in the success of the DENDRAL Project: “One scientist, with knowledge of both chemistry and computer science, was willing to coordinate and arbitrate the often-conflicting efforts of the group, and was able to do it because others felt sufficient respect for this man’s ideas and vision to sacrifice some of the traditional autonomy and rugged individualism of scientists.”

Josh, we will miss you. Perhaps we should, as with the Prophet Elijah at the Passover, open the door and leave an empty chair for you at our various meetings!

We send you our best wishes for a successful presidency, and in return we ask only... that you answer your net messages.

Ed Feigenbaum