

A message for Wolfgang Bibel
for the Symposium in honour of his 80th Birthday
from Alan Mackworth

Dear Wolfgang,

We first met sometime around 1985, in a bar; perhaps it was at IJCAI-85 in Los Angeles. I have fond memories of that meeting. I had heard that Wolfgang might be interested in leaving Munich. We had a position available as a Fellow in the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) AI and Robotics Program and a Professorship at UBC. Luckily, that turned out to be true and we successfully recruited Wolfgang to the CIFAR Program and to UBC Computer Science.

Your stay in Vancouver was regrettably brief – you left for an irresistible opportunity at Darmstadt in 1988 - but in that time we established a close working professional relationship, including IJCAI leadership, and warm friendship that has continued to this day. Incidentally, through that connection we were subsequently lucky to attract Holger Hoos, who had been your doctoral student, to UBC as a postdoc and subsequently as a very productive faculty member, who is still associated with our AI group as are you.

Although we tried hard to keep Wolfgang at UBC his departure did allow us to hire David Poole. Thus the UBC logicist tradition: Ray Reiter, Wolfgang Bibel and David Poole continued unbroken!

David also remembers meeting Wolfgang in the mid 1980's. Wolfgang's mentorship is one of the reasons David was attracted to UBC. Unfortunately, Wolfgang left just before David arrived; we hope David didn't drive him away. (Just joking!)

David and I are delighted to have this opportunity to express our warm congratulations to Wolfgang on his splendid intellectual achievements and his academic leadership over a long and productive career.

With very best wishes,
Alan