

Remembrances of Herbert Freeman

My first solid memory of Herb Freeman is his foresighted survey of the emerging field of computer graphics at the 1966 Pattern Recognition Workshop in Puerto Rico. That is where we discovered our shared love of walking and maps.

Then, in 1969, he surprised me with an invitation to give a lecture on OCR at a seminar that he was running in NYC for working engineers. A decade later, at a NATO Advanced Study Institute in Maratea, he introduced me to the lively Italian pattern recognition community.

Still later, he invited me to work with him at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. But by the end of the two years it took for my move from the University of Nebraska, he had decided to join Rutgers University, near the homes of his children and grandchildren. So I inherited only his office with the No Smoking sign, his course on Computer Vision and Robotics, and his student Junichi Kanai (now a Professor at RPI).

When I visited him at Rutgers, he showed me the building that he had raised for the Center for Advanced Information Processing (CAIP), and some challenging examples of map label placement. At one of the conferences where we usually met, Herb chided me for not wearing a necktie.

At the next conference, I caught him open-collared. He said "Times change!" He kept up better and longer than most of us.

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