

IN APPRECIATION OF JOHANNA “JO” WEINSTEIN



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND



UMIACS

University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies



Jo Weinstein and Jack Minker at Jack's retirement from the University of Maryland in 1998. Photo provided by Ben Shneiderman



JOHANNA “JO” WEINSTEIN was executive director of administration and operations at the University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (UMIACS) for more than 30 years.

From the beginning, Jo worked side-by-side with four separate directors and two interim directors, affording senior-level oversight of all administrative and financial activities of the Institute.

Through the years, Jo proved herself invaluable as UMIACS grew—helping with the planning and implementing of new centers and projects; planning, managing and tracking all state budget and foundation accounts; providing oversight of sponsored research accounts and expenditures; solving numerous problems; and supervising and mentoring the Institute’s excellent support staff.

The Institute is strong today—with more than 70 faculty with joint appointments who are generating more than \$25M in research funding each year—due in no small part to Jo’s dedication and expertise.

Your friends and colleagues want to say “Thank You” for all you have done for UMIACS, and for the friendship, love and support you have given to many of us over the years.

Thank you, Jo! We miss you and wish you the best.



Image courtesy of Bonnie Dorr

MESSAGE FROM BONNIE DORR

Jo, I think of you so very often. You and Jack together took me under your wings multiple times like caring parents, guiding me toward the best outcome in the face of some challenges that otherwise would have felt insurmountable. I can't tell you how much that meant to me—changing my life in so many positive ways that I still experience to this very day. I still remember dropping by your office to chat about life, stepfamily relationships, child-rearing, and so many other shared experiences. I am wishing you so much love and please come visit in Florida whenever you'd like!

Hugs and love to you,
Bonnie

MESSAGE FROM JEAN AND DON PERLIS

Dear Jo,

I am sharing a photograph of you and Jack at a “point-to-point” horse-race event in Virginia, which Jean and I invited you to attend with us. This was the photograph that first alerted us to the fact that you were a happy couple!

Much love from Jean and Don



Photo provided by Jean and Don Perlis

MESSAGE FROM LOUIQA RASCHID

Dear Jo,

One of the unexpected benefits of the pandemic was that I got to spend a lot of quality time with you and with Jack. A highlight of my pandemic Sundays would be cooking a dish (without garlic!) and bringing it over to your house to share a meal with both of you, and then to spend a relaxing evening in the comfort and love of your home. As I would get ready to leave, you would invite me to stay over if I did not want to drive at night, and you would welcome me to be at home in your home. Welcoming people to your home and to your life was the gift that you and Jack shared with me and with so many others. It is a gift that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Louiqa



(From left) Former UMIACS directors V.S. Subrahmanian, Howard Elman and Amitabh Varshney pose with Jo Weinstein and Fritz McCall, along with other former directors Larry Davis and Joseph JaJa.

MESSAGE FROM LARRY DAVIS

Dear Jo,

I think it's time to let everyone know who really ran UMIACS while I was director. I was extremely lucky to have found you to help me build the Institute from its founding and to create the atmosphere of "we solve problems for our faculty" that has persisted for more than three decades. I always felt that I could trust your judgement so I could just delegate responsibilities to you and focus my attention on the academic side of things. For over thirty years you led and built a fantastic administrative staff. You have also been a great friend to me, letting me take Jack on exciting trips around the world, cooking some fabulous meals for Joan and me, and setting me straight when needed (all too often). Thanks for all of it.

Larry



At the Minker birthday celebration (from left) Don Perlis, Jack Minker, Jo Weinstein, Yaser Yacoub and Mihai Pop, current director of UMIACS.

MESSAGE FROM MIHAI POP

Dear Jo,

The other day we found the sheet music we got at your synagogue when you told us about the Zuill Bailey cello workshop. My son is finally at the level to play it, and I look forward to sharing a recording with you once he learns it. Hoping you are well and wishing you happiness.

Mihai

MESSAGE FROM LORI FRANK

I remember very clearly meeting you and Jack for the first time. You were so gracious and welcoming, putting a very nervous me at ease. You are so important to Jeff, and I knew your impression of me would matter very much to him. You gave us a lovely dinner in your home and we had such a great evening. Lots of really interesting conversation. I also remember very clearly where I was when Jeff shared the report from you on your impressions of me. He wouldn't tell me what you said and at first he just said that your comment to him about me had the word "work" in it. What could it be? A relationship with me will be a lot of work? That I will prioritize my work over a relationship? And then he said that you advised him, "Make it work!" Thank you, Jo, for giving Jeff this advice, and for sharing your friendship with me. Thank you, also, for celebrating our wedding with us—it meant so much that you and Jack were there. And thank you for being such a wonderful friend to us.

Lori



At the Minker birthday celebration (from left) Sapienza Barone, Darryll Pines, Jack Minker, Jo Weinstein and Amitabh Varshney.

MESSAGE FROM AMITABH VARSHNEY

Dear Jo,

As a longtime faculty member and former director of UMIACS, I want to thank you for your tireless efforts and steadfast commitment to keeping the Institute running smoothly over the years. There were many times I would come to you with an idea or initiative, and you were always able to find a way to make it work. Both you and Jack played a large role in making computing research and education at the University of Maryland the powerhouse that it is today. We are all grateful for your efforts and we wish you the very best!

Amitabh



(From left) Jenny Preece, Jack Minker and Jo Weinstein. Photo provided by Ben Shneiderman.

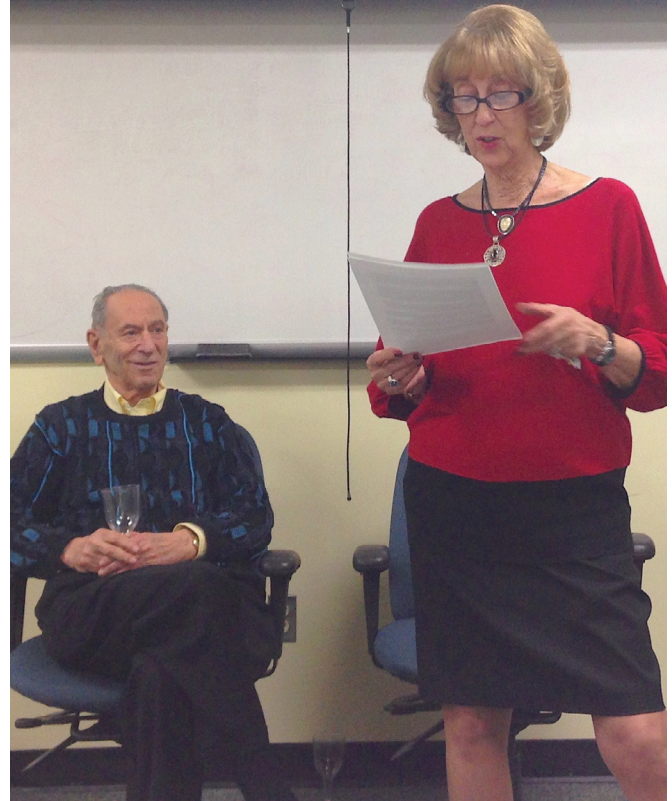
MESSAGE FROM BEN SHNEIDERMAN

Dear Jo,

Many will remember you as a terrific administrator, who contributed greatly to UMIACS' success. I will remember you as a wonderful friend to Jenny and to me—going back to the early days after my divorce in 1993–1994, and later when Jenny joined me in Maryland in 1996. I greatly valued your friendship, numerous discussions over delicious meals, and your advice about many aspects of life. And with it all, you added fun and interest to our lives.

Ben

JOHANNA WEINSTEIN CHEESE AND WINE RECEPTION TO



CELEBRATE HER RETIREMENT IN DECEMBER OF 2016



MESSAGE FROM HOWARD ELMAN

Dear Jo,

Letting you know that your presence at UMIACS has been missed immeasurably since you left. I for one know that I benefited tremendously from your presence there, both professionally and personally. This was especially true in my year as acting director when you made that job extremely easy for me. I'm sure you know that the Institute ran smoothly in large part because of your hard work and warm and friendly attitude. I hope you are doing well now and wish you all the best.

Howard

MESSAGE FROM HANAN SAMET AND LEILA DE FLORIANI

Dear Jo,

We miss you terribly in the UMIACS office where you were a fixture and a beloved boss. Your duties and responsibilities went beyond the usual work setting and ranged from handling Friday afternoon gatherings to providing matzos during Passover. Leila and I also miss the occasional Friday evening Erev Shabbat dinners to which you and Jack kindly invited us. No detail was too small for you. I also miss hearing the distinct sound made by your shoes as you were walking on the 4th floor of the A.V. Williams Building on one of your visits to CfAR. All the best as you recover from the sudden loss of your mate Jack. We miss you.

Hanan and Leila

MESSAGE FROM SAMIR KHULLER

Dear Jo,

You were the first person I exchanged email with at the University of Maryland. When I was a Ph.D. student at Cornell, I saw an ad for a postdoc in UMIACS, and I emailed you to ask if I should apply. I had previously submitted an application for a faculty position in CS. You kindly responded saying, “I can walk upstairs and grab your file from the CS business office.” Lo and behold, a few days later, Uzi Vishkin emailed me asking me to schedule a visit to give a talk. Fast forward some more and I was at UMIACS. You were not stuck with me for just two years but almost 30, including being honored to hold the first Elizabeth Iribe Chair for CS. Best wishes and I hope that you are doing well.

Samir

MESSAGE FROM JEFF HORTY

Dear Jo,

I’ve been thinking about how influential you have been on me, and so many others. As a junior faculty member just learning the ropes, you provided warm and much needed guidance. I am so happy that you and Jack have been a part of my life and Lori’s ever since. UMIACS grew and strengthened in part thanks to your careful and skilled input, and your pragmatism. Your willingness to problem solve on matters big and small, professional and personal, has been a source of comfort through the years.

With love,

Jeff

MESSAGE FROM ALLISON DRUIN

Johanna,

We were so sorry to hear about Jack's passing. You walked on water helping Jack, and everyone that surrounded him. While Ben and I are no longer at UMD, we cherish the days we had with the insanely awesome people we got to share time with. Jack was one of those people (and of course you were too).

I will never forget how Jack helped me on my NSF Career proposal. And Ben and I will never stop being thankful for all that you did in supporting our grant proposals over the years. My favorite Jo story is how you resubmitted a grant proposal to NSF for me, even though I was waiting to hear the reviews. You said it needed to be funded and so you just resubmitted the whole thing a second time. And sure enough, we got our first digital libraries grant from NSF, which ended up launching the International Children's Digital Library. Without you, there would have been no library! And without that digital library, there might have been two less associate provosts in

the world—Ben at UMD and me at Pratt Institute.

As for things today, Ben and I now live full-time in the Berkshires (though I am still Associate Provost for Research & Strategic Partnerships at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY). This pandemic has made working remotely from the Berkshires possible and we are grateful. We now spend our weekends clearing trails, walking or hiking, and helping out in our small town.

We miss Maryland, though. So many wonderful people we spent decades enjoying. You are among them. You are our hero, fearless and strong. We learned so much from you. Today, I lead the grants and contracts group at Pratt, and I can't tell you how many times I think back to something you would say. I am grateful I learned from the best!

Sending big hugs in peace and power,

Allison

MESSAGE FROM JOSEPH JAJA

Dear Jo,

I often remember your wonderful presence in UMIACS and how much of the UMIACS success story was due to your relentless efforts. You helped me tremendously in the UMIACS director job and you have been a fabulous friend. I think of Jack often, especially given our special friendship. I recall vividly the dinners we have enjoyed at your house and the wonderful food you prepared for all of us. I cherish our relationship and very much hope that the coming days will bring you good health and peace of mind. I wish you the very best.

Joseph



UMIACS administrative staff (from left) Melissa Brachfeld, Arlene Schenk, Jo Weinstein, Yerty Valenzuela and Javi Caceres.



We miss you and wish you the best.