



Joseph F. Traub

It is my sad duty to inform you that Joseph F. Traub passed away on Monday, August 24, in Santa Fe, NM. Joe's death was sudden and unexpected, without any long suffering.

Joe had a long and distinguished career, having worked at Bell Labs, the University of Washington, Carnegie Mellon University and Columbia University, as well as the Santa Fe

Institute. He was the chair of the Computer Science Department at CMU, where he oversaw the growth of the Department into one of the top CS departments in the world. He was also the founding chair of the Columbia CS Department, where he held the Edwin Howard Armstrong Professorship.

The unifying theme behind Joe's research was the role that information plays when solving a numerical problem. This eventually led to the creation of a new area of research, information-based complexity theory, which studies the computational complexity of problems for which the available information does not uniquely identify the problem being solved.

Joe was the founding editor-in-chief of the Journal of Complexity, as well as the founder of the Computer Science and Technology Board of the National Research Council.

He was the author of over 120 papers, as well as the author or editor of ten monographs (one of which, I was privileged to be his co-author). He was the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

A memorial service was held Friday, September 4, 10:00 am, at the United Church (Arroyo Chamiso and St. Michael)

Full obituaries may be found at

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/2015/joseph-traub-in-memoriam>

<http://www.santafe.edu/news/item/in-memoriam-joseph-traub>

The latter has a place for visitors to leave comments.

Jacques Sakarovitch