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ISSN: 2692-7977

JBDAI Vol. 2, No. 1, 2024

DOI: 10.54116/jbdai.v2i1.38

MEMORIAL

IN MEMORY OF DR. DAVID BELANGER (12/8/1944–11/18/2022)

Sadly, our dear colleague, Dr. David Belanger, passed away in November, 2022.

David was a founding member of the New Jersey Big Data Alliance (NJBDA)—an alliance of New Jersey academic institutions and corporations that aims to promote Big Data education and research in New Jersey, the parent organization of this journal. “Through the last decade, as our organization grew and expanded its programs, he provided brilliant insight and guidance on our direction, offering suggestions in his thoughtful way and always ready to collaborate. David will be greatly missed,” said Margaret Brennan-Tonetta, NJBDA’s past president and co-founder. At NJBDA, he was most recently Vice President of the Entrepreneurship Committee.

David was an internationally known authority on Big Data and data governance.



Dr. David Belanger

During his 30 years at AT&T Bell Labs, he contributed to software and data management advances that led to the world of computing and Big Data as we know it today. From 2001 to 2012, he was the Chief Scientist at AT&T.

As Big Data emerged as a significant factor in the industry, David was called upon to lead the IEEE’s “Big Data Initiative”—a worldwide effort that included defining data strategy and data standards. He also led the IEEE’s DataPort project, which offers 2,500 datasets and has over 2.5 million users.

In 2012, David joined Stevens as Senior Research Fellow/Senior Lecturer. As a BIA faculty member, he developed several courses in the Big Data concentration and certificate programs. David was a superb teacher, and he touched the lives of hundreds of students who looked to him as a source of inspiration throughout their careers. He played a leading role in the BIA Industry Advisory Board, where his presence attracted leading industry experts and animated discussions of trends and issues of importance to the program. David had a positive impact on all of us. He was an inspiring, innovative thinker, role model, and constant reminder of the best academic traditions. He was always interested in exploring new ideas and excited about his research and teaching. He loved his students, was proud of their achievements, and followed them as a friend and mentor through their careers. He inspired all of us through his integrity, high intellectual standards, and collegiality.

In his memory, Stevens has established the [David Belanger Fellowship Fund](#) to provide fellowships for future generations of qualified graduate students in the area of Big Data. “Knowing David’s love for his students, I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to his memory” said Ted Stohr, Professor and Academic Coordinator of the BI&A Program.

We at NJBDA and JBDAI will continue to remember David as a gentle scholar who cared for people. A colleague fittingly remembered David as being “the kindest scientist of our time.”

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