

LETTER FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

This is a special issue of PESQUISA OPERACIONAL in honor of the 60th birthday of Nelson Maculan. It has been a great pleasure for myself to have the opportunity to be the editor of it. The issue has been prepared with the aim of giving to the reader an idea of some of the achievements and scientific work of Maculan. The hope is that some of it has been attained.

The career of Maculan has been unique in many senses. He was able to combine the activities of research with that of organization and leadership. His list of publications is impressive, but at the same time he has occupied positions as the Rector of Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. However, even when serving as Rector he never ceased to give his lectures and to supervise his students. One of the most impressive aspects of his career is the number of postgraduate students that have been supervised by him. In fact, one can say that basically in almost every Brazilian University where there is any activity in combinatorial optimization or operations research, there is some faculty member that obtained his degree, under Maculan's supervision.

The opening paper of the issue is "Nelson Maculan Filho: Cientista e Educador", by Celso C. Ribeiro, Mário Veiga F. Pereira, Nair Maria M. Abreu and Ruy E. Campello. This article comments on some of Maculan's scientific contributions, as well as his career and leadership. Most of the articles that follow it, they were written by Maculan's former students or collaborators. Most of the referees were also Maculan's former students.

It would not be possible to produce this issue without the collaboration of Márcia Fampa and Nair Maria M. Abreu, from Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. I am indebted to them for their work and dedication. I would like also to thank the referees for their reports.

Finally, I should acknowledge the constant support received from Horacio Hideki Yanasse, the Editor-in-Chief of PESQUISA OPERACIONAL.

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