

October 16, 2002

Fr Malloy, Provost Hatch, Distinguished Guests, Distinguished Colleagues, Family and Friends **This is great!**

This is a **tremendous** honor and I would like to thank the Brosey family for making it possible. And my colleagues (and the Provost and the President) for considering my accomplishments worth this honor.

This is a true milestone in one's career and makes one look back, take stock. Certainly I did not accomplish this alone! There are many-many people who have helped and influenced me along the way, starting with my teachers and my students, and I would like to thank them all.

I enjoy **teaching** very much and I am quite good at it-at least according to my students (1991 Teaching Award, Kaneb, 1999 MasterMentor). But this award/distinction is primarily about achievements in research.

Let me tell you about my **research**. My area is automatic control and automation. It is related to Computers, CommNetworks, InfoTechnology. I use mathematics to describe systems I want to control, and then I design decision making systems to do exactly that. I use math a lot (and this is why I head the Center for Applied Math of the University) Where do you find such control systems? In short, everywhere.

In your car, ABS brakes, traction control, cruise control, stabilizing systems, fuel injection, emission control. Also stabilizing the image in your hand held cam recorder. Also automatic pilots in airplanes. In ships-cruise ships. In factories. In refineries. Feedback control is everywhere, but it is hidden-inside computers. We call control the **stealth technology**, the hidden technology.

Sometimes people know about them but they do not necessarily know they are control systems. In a recent newspaper column (9/3/02) titled "**Telescopes that would amaze Galileo,**" George F.Will describing the amazing 300 ton Keck observatory telescopes atop Mauna Kea on Hawaii's Big Island wrote, and I quote:

"But the *really* remarkable device is a mirror about the size of a man's hand. Distortions in the gathered light are removed by bouncing the light off this mirror which has 400 pistons operated by tiny computer-driven motors that make adjustments in the mirror's surface 642 times a second."

Teaching and research keep me busy enough (I supervise 7 graduate students). However I also consider a faculty member's obligation to participate in **committees that deal with issues of importance to the students and faculty and the University as a whole.**

(Administrators cannot and should not do it alone. They need the input.) And I mean participation even when it is not part of any contract, even when one does not serve as chairman, dean, VP. I have been serving in committees and I hope I have contributed in a small way to the success of this University since I first came to Notre Dame. I have served in I think all committees in my Department-also being Grad advisor for a few years-in the College council, in the faculty senate, in the academic council. We have discussed issues from introducing new courses in the EE curriculum, to university priorities in funding for the next 10 years, to the level of compensation for staff, to the level of insurance premiums for graduate students, to ways for faculty to participate more effectively in the university governance issues.

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These are in addition to my participation in professional organizations. For example, I was fortunate to have served as President of the IEEE Control Systems Society.(13000 members in 85 countries)

And I am saying all this to point out the sacrifices my family has made over the years, **because all these activities take time, lots of time.**

At this point I would like to recognize my wife Melinda Reese-Antsaklis and my daughter Lily Antsaklis. Without them providing balance in my life and helping me set the right priorities I would probably spend 24 hours in the office-and I thank them for that.

I would also like to **especially thank** my wife Melinda for putting her career aspirations second and mine first (she is a Russian Literature scholar-Russian poetry, PhD from Brown University), and following me from Brown, to Rice to London to Notre Dame.

Finally, I would like **to recognize my family in Greece**-I came here to the US as a graduate student. I still have there my mother Marina and my 2 brothers George and Aris, both medical doctors-one chief of surgery at a major hospital and the other professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the university of Athens. I would like to thank my mother-Lily's grandmother-**for teaching me the importance of responsibility and of being a good student.**

My father, Ioannis Antsaklis, was a medical doctor a surgeon and he had his own clinic-40 bed small hospital-in my hometown Kalamata a 50,000 town with a harbor in southern Greece. Although not originally from there he spent his life serving the people of Kalamata.

Because the clinic was serving also as an ER, due to lack of proper hospital in Kalamata, my father was obliged to spend very long hours at the clinic and also respond to calls in the middle of the night. In spite of being tired and not able to get home any earlier than 10 -11 each night, after he got home he used to burn the midnight oil studying about new methods in surgery-so to use them and save the life of a patient. He has taught himself foreign languages-French, English and some German-to read those books and papers-they were not being translated into Greek automatically! He did all these because he believed that he had to. His **dedication** was a great lesson to me.

The other lesson he taught me was **compassion**. He treated people who could not afford it for free-and they were many of them (He covered the clinic's expenses himself, not only he donated his personal services). And I must tell you that today over 30 years later when we visit Kalamata and the surrounding areas the children of those patients recognize the name and they tell us stories of kindness and compassion. This makes me proud and puts up a very high standard to follow. It was and still is a great lesson.

My father passed way when I was a graduate student, 28 years ago yesterday. October 15. I would like to dedicate this recognition to him, my father, Lily's grandfather, Dr Yannis Antsaklis. Thanks you all! Thank you.