

## Dedicated to Walter Klöpffer on the Occasion of his Anniversary on 6 June 2008

**David Hunkeler** <david.hunkeler@aquaplustech.ch>

14.02.2008 08:52

Walter, in my eyes, is the quintessential definition of an Editor. He has been involved in our discipline from its nascent times of being a proto-LCA, remembers well the dialogues of the past and integrates these into his commentaries, is selfless in inviting others to express their opinion, and has a very good eye in proofreading. Perhaps the feature that I appreciate most is Walter's critical thinking and his willingness to serve. I have been with him on committees and always appreciated how he taught us all to listen. This model to remember, reflect and regroup is almost philosophical in its simplicity, yet one I value very much, and try to mimic as an apprentice. I sincerely believe that our field benefits from Walter's dedication and I offer him my heartfelt congratulations on turning seventy. Happy birthday, my friend.

David Hunkeler

**sangwon** <sangwon@umn.edu>

14.02.2008 00:48

Congratulations! Your ceaseless passion toward the advancement of LCA always inspires me. I believe that the entire LCA community is indebted to your great leadership that enabled the success of Int J LCA. *Sangwon Sub*

**Göran Finnveden** <goran.finnveden@infra.kth.se>

14.02.2008 14:13

Walter Klöpffer's importance for the development of Life Cycle Assessment during the last decades can hardly be overestimated. I remember him during the early 90's talking about publication and critical review as the keys to the development of LCA. He was so very right! During the early 90's it was quite difficult to get LCA papers published in scientific journals. This hampered the development of LCA and the acceptance of LCA results. Starting the International Journal of LCA was a key step in the development of LCA as a tool. This has been immensely important for development of LCA as a scientific discipline and the acceptance of LCA as a tool. *Göran Finnveden*

**"Jim Fava"** <j.fava@fivewinds.com>

16.02.2008 15:47

Walter and I first met when we both worked at Battelle. I thought that we were ahead of the game within our Columbus division of Battelle, but when I met Walter in Frankfurt, I found out that we were the new kids on the block. Walter and his colleagues had already been active in LCA. Since then Walter has taken a visionary position in striking new ground with the Journal of LCA – at that time few thought it would succeed – not enough interest in this new but growing tool. He was right. His leadership with the journal, willingness to partner with groups to advance LCA globally, breaking ground on the LCA study peer review process, and improving the quality of the LCA papers in the journal have all been some of the success factors that has established LCA as a solid tool in business and governments to improve our product and packaging systems. Walter, congratulations on your success and for one I look forward to many more years of collaboration. *James Fava*

**"Udo de Haes"** <udodehaes@planet.nl>

17.02.2008 09:47

When the LCA community was fully working within the SETAC organisation, Water came up suddenly with the surprising idea of establishing an international journal on LCA, fully independent from our scientific home. Surely we found this journal a very good idea, there

was a real need for it; but why in this way? Would it work? And now we can say, yes, look how good this idea was, precisely in the way he proposed. Walter, enjoy the pleasure of your work for a long time to come! *Helias A. Udo de Haes*

**"Martin Baitz"** <m.baitz@pe-international.com>

18.02.2008 10:23

The LifeCycle: Vast amount of aspects – many different interpretations – few global players – one relevant journal! Congratulation, Walter. *Viele Grüße, Martin*

**"Matthias Finkbeiner"**

<matthias.finkbeiner@tu-berlin.de>

21.02.2008 13:39

I just started in the field of LCA when I first met Walter a long, long time ago. In contrast to some other 'big names' in the LCA community at that time, he showed respect for a 'rookie', if he (or she) had something to say.

For me, that is one of his characteristic qualities: he is always focused on content and substance rather than status or all the other political games that seem to be so important in the 'science business' today.

Knowing that it is politically incorrect – especially for this community – but I confess that I particularly enjoyed Walter's company during breaks for a smoke at conferences. A ten-minute discussion with him over a fag was often more inspiring than what happened in the sessions.

We all know, what he did for the LCA community and for (t)his journal, but – most importantly – he still remains a driver for cutting-edge developments

in our field. For me, he is the 'elder statesman of LCA' in the best possible meaning of the term and I wish him all the best for a happy and healthy future. *Matthias Finkbeiner*

**YoungRisk@aol.com**

03.03.2008 18:35

Walter, It has been a great pleasure working with you as the LCA expert for ESPR, and as a fellow colleague with all the tasks and responsibilities of an Editor-in-Chief. You have been an inspiration to all of us! Best wishes for a wonderful 70th Birthday Celebration! *Al Young, Editor-in-Chief, ESPR*

**"Dr. Birgit Grahl"** <integrahl@t-online.de>

18.03.2008 15:09

Should we standardize LCA? Is it possible to standardize this? Those were exciting questions during the early nineties in DIN's LCA subcommittee. At that time, the step 'interpretation' was still discussed as 'valuation', and Walter sighed: we have not even discussed the theory behind this term! During the many years of our cooperation, I was always fascinated by Walter's ability to tackle nearly irresolvable problems with philosophical precision, but without losing sight of pragmatic implications, and to present his solutions to such predicaments with his Austrian ('Grazer') charm. I am looking forward to the coming years which promise to be as exciting as ever. *Birgit Grahl*

**"Schmidt, Wulf-Peter Dr (W.-P.)"** <wschmi18@ford.com>

19.03.2008 03:39

Walter, thanks for all the years you guided me and the whole LCA community in a wise and kindly manner. You share your long experience in a very congenial and non-intrusive way. With that you represent a role model in ranking science and life-cycle thinking at the first place without making them too academic and impracticable. Please continue! *Wulf-Peter Schmidt*

