Blagovest H. Sendov (February 8, 1932 - January 19, 2020) was a great visionary. He was a person with power (President of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and also the president of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) so he was in the position to implement his visionary ideas to become reality. There were two important ones that in my opinion made profound impact on the lives and careers of many of us. He created a master program and a PhD program in the faculty of Mathematics and Mechanics (at the time and later Mathematics and Informatics) of Sofia University. Also, he created united centers between the university and the academy, so people that are very active in research can also teach and mentor master and PhD students. Many of us are product of that synergy. Another major creation of his was a leading institution that brought together industry and academia with the sole purpose to build a parallel computer in Eastern Europe behind the iron curtain. It was clear that under the conditions then this was mostly a futile idea destined to fail on one hand, but on the other hand there very bright people involved; they were trained and gained very valuable experience in the area of parallel computing (both hardware and algorithms and software). After the collapse of the Eastern European bloc, when the research and high tech industry were not priority (and impossible to fund) in the beginning of the changing political system, many of us found realization of their career in leading institutions all over the world benefiting from that experience. This is how the decisions made by this great man impacted my life and the life of my family (and many others).

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