

Van der Ziel Award Speech, written down afterwards. Dec. 8, 2011

(After a history of my research career was introduced to a banquet-roomful of mostly academics.)

I must be getting old. I don't remember doing all the things that Mark said I did.

I sincerely thank ISDRS and the award committee for giving me this award. I appreciate it very much because its namesake, Dr. van der Ziel, was a legend in the semiconductor device field. And because its previous winners are contemporary icons like Nobel Laureate Herbert Kroemer, Marvin White, and Mark Lundstrom.

Just before dinner, Marvin reminded me that he once gave me an important advice. Indeed, I am forever grateful for his advice. Many years ago, I asked him whether I should accept an offer of the deanship at a top ten engineering school. Marvin said, "Chenming, don't touch it with a ten foot pole". Marvin, you changed my life. Maybe saved my life.

I was sitting at the same table with Mark Lundstrom. We were reminiscing about the old days. Mark said, "When I was van der Ziel's student. I was the computer programming guru in our research group and we were still using FORTRAN at that time!" FORTRAN, you know, is a really old computer language. I said, "When I was a Ph.D. student at Berkeley, FORTRAN was such a new and important computer language that the EE Department allowed Ph.D. students to use it ---- to satisfy the FOREIGN LANGUAGE requirement in place of French, German, or Russian!"

Enough jokes about old age. In closing, I'd like to share a secret with the younger members of the audience. The secret formula for winning professional awards is---Work hard, and Live long.

Thank you all for this great award.