

**ACADEMICIAN PROFESSOR DIMITRIE D. STANCU
AT HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY**

PETRU BLAGA AND OCTAVIAN AGRATINI

We are pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate this anniversary of academician professor Dr. Dimitrie D. Stancu, a distinguish Romanian mathematician.

He is an Emeritus member of American Mathematical Society and a Honorary member of the Romanian Academy.

He has obtained the scientific title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the University "Lucian Blaga" from Sibiu and also a similar title from the "North University" of Baia Mare.

Professor D.D. Stancu was born on February 11, 1927, in a farmer family, from the township Călăcea, situated not far from Timișoara, the capital of Banat, a south-west province of Romania. In his shoolage he had many difficulties being orphan and very poor, but with the help of his mathematics teachers he succeeded to make progress in studies at the prestigious Liceum "Moise Nicoară" from the large city Arad.

In the period 1947-1951 he studied at the Faculty of Mathematics of the University "Victor Babeș", from Cluj, Romania. When he was a student he was under the influence of professor Tiberiu Popoviciu (1906-1975), a great master of Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory. He stimulated him to do research work.

After his graduation, in 1951, he was named assistant at the Department of Mathematical Analysis, University of Cluj. He has obtained the Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1956. His scientific advisor for the doctoral dissertation was professor Tiberiu Popoviciu.

In a normal succession he advanced up to the rank of full professor, in 1969.

He was happy to benefit from a fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, Numerical Analysis Department, conducted by the late professor Preston C. Hammer. He spent at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison, the academic year 1961-1962.

Professor D.D. Stancu has participated in different events in USA. Among them we mention that he has presented contributed papers at several regional meetings organized by the American Mathematical Society in the cities Milwaukee, Chicago and New York.

After his returning from America, he was named deputy dean at the Faculty of Mathematics of University of Cluj and head of the Chair of Numerical and Statistical Calculus.

He hold a continuous academic career at the Cluj University.

He has a nice family. His wife dr. Felicia Stancu was a lecturer of mathematics at the same University "Babeş-Bolyai" from Cluj.

They have two wonderful daughters: Angela (1957) and Mirela (1958), both teaching mathematics at secondary schools in Cluj-Napoca. From them they have three grandchildren: Alexandru-Mircea Scridon (1983) and George Scridon (1992) (the sons of Mirela) and Ştefana-Ioana Muntean (1991), the daughter of Angela. Their oldest grandson: Alexandru-Mircea Scridon, graduated in 2006 the Romanian-German section of Informatics at the University "Babeş-Bolyai" from Cluj-Napoca.

Professor D.D. Stancu loved all deeply and warmly.

At the University of Cluj-Napoca professor D.D. Stancu has taught several courses: Mathematical Analysis, Numerical Analysis, Approximation Theory, Informatics, Probability Theory and Constructive Theory of Functions.

He has used probabilistic, umbral and spline methods in Approximation Theory.

He had a large number of doctoral students from Romania, Germany and Vietnam.

Besides the United States of America, professor D.D. Stancu has participated in many scientific events in Germany (Stuttgart, Hannover, Hamburg, Göttingen, Dortmund, Münster, Siegen, Würzburg, Berlin, Oberwolfach), Italy (Roma, Napoli, Potenza, L'Aquila), England (Lancaster, Durham), Hungary (Budapest), France (Paris), Bulgaria (Sofia, Varna), Czech Republic (Brno).

His publication lists about 160 items (papers and books).

In different research journals there are more than 60 papers containing his name in their titles.

Since 1961 he is a member of American Mathematical Society and a reviewer of the international journal "Mathematical Reviews".

He is also a member of the German Society: "Gesellschaft für Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik" and a reviewer of the journal "Zentralblatt für Mathematik".

At present he is Editor in Chief of the journal published by the Romanian Academy: "Revue d'Analyse Numérique et de Théorie de l'Approximation". For many years he is a member of the Editorial Board of the Italian mathematical journal "Calcolo", published now by Springer-Verlag, in Berlin.

In 1968 he has obtained one of the Research Awards of the Department of Education in Bucharest for his research work in Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory.

In 1995 the University "Lucian Blaga", from Sibiu, has accorded him the scientific title of "Doctor Honoris Causa". The "North University" of Baia Mare, from which he has several doctoral students, has distinguished him with a similar honorary scientific title.

In 1999 professor D.D. Stancu was elected a Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy.

In the same year he has participated with a lecture at the "Alexits Memorial Conference", held in Budapest.

In May 2000 he was invited to participate at the International Symposium: "Trends in Approximation Theory", dedicated to the 60th birthday anniversary of

Professor Larry L. Schumacker, held in Nashville, TN, where he presented a contributed paper, in collaboration with professor Wanzer Drane, from University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. With this occasion of visiting America, Professor D.D. Stancu was invited to present colloquium talks at several American Universities: Ohio State University from Columbus, OH, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, PACE University, Pleasantville, N.Y.

The main contributions of research work of Professor D.D. Stancu fall into the following list of topics: Interpolation theory, Numerical differentiation, Orthogonal polynomials, Numerical quadratures and cubatures, Taylor-type expansions, Approximation of functions by means of linear positive operators, Representation of remainders in linear approximation procedures, Probabilistic methods for construction and investigation of linear positive operators of approximation, spline approximation, use of Interpolation and Calculus of finite differences in Probability theory and Mathematical statistics.

In 1996 Professor D.D. Stancu has organized in Cluj-Napoca an "International Conference on Approximation and Optimization" (ICAOR), in conjunction with the Second European Congress, held in Budapest. There were participated around 150 mathematicians from 20 countries around the world. The Proceedings of ICAOR were published in two volumes having the title: "Approximation and Optimization", by Transilvania Press, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 1997.

In May 9-11, 2002 was organized by the "Babeş-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, an "International Symposium on Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory", dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Professor D.D. Stancu. The Proceedings of this symposium were edited by Radu T. Trîmbiţaş and published in 2002 in Cluj-Napoca by Cluj University Press.

In the period July 5-8, 2006 an "International Conference on Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory" was held at Babeş-Bolyai University. Professor D.D. Stancu was the honorary chair of this Conference.

This Conference was attended by over 60 mathematicians coming from 12 countries. The programme included 8 invited lectures and over 50 research talks.

The invited speakers were: Francesco Altomare (Italy), George Anastassiou (USA), Heiner Gonska (Germany), Bohdan Maslowski (Czech Republic), Giuseppe Mastroianni (Italy), Gradimir Milovanović (Serbia), Jozsef Szabados and Peter Vertesi (Hungary). The proceedings of this International Conference were published under the title: "Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory", Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2006, edited by "Casa Cărții de Știință" (418 pages).

The intensive research work and the important results obtained in Numerical Analysis and Approximation Theory by Professor D.D. Stancu has brought to him recognition and appreciation in his country and abroad.

We conclude by wishing him health and happiness on his 80th birthday and for many years to come.

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