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On the sixtieth birthday of Professor dr. Gheorghe Micula

Dumitru Acu

Professor dr. Gheorghe Micula has made fundamental contributions in many central parts of numerical analysis. He is a mathematician whose work possessed power, grace, and beauty; it has continuing relevance in numerical solution of differential, integral and partial differential equations and spline functions and their applications.

Gheorghe Micula has a grace and charm that convinced rather that bludgeoned. His linguistic skills - he speaks fluent in at least five languages - and his sense of humor enhanced his ability to present his ideas.

His humor was often self-effacing: it was delivered with the confidence that captured the attention and affection of his audience.

Gheorghe Micula was born on April 23, 1943, in the village Delureni, Bihor County, Romania, in a farmer's family. After finishing secondary school in Vadul Crişului, in 1960, he studied at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Cluj-Napoca. He received a master's degree in Mathematics and Physics in 1965, with "Best" qualification (Magna cum laude).

In the same year he was named assistant-professor at the Department of Differential Equations, University of Cluj.

In 1971 he obtained the degree of Doctor of Mathematics (Ph. D.) at the University of Cluj. His thesis, entitled "*Contribution to the Numerical Solutions of Differential Equations by Spline Functions*", was written under the direction of the professor Dumitru V. lonescu. Between 1975 and 2003 he worked at the University of Cluj, where, in a normal succession, he advanced up to the rank of full professor at the Chair of Differential Equations.

He got married in 1965. His wife, professor dr. Maria Micula (born Vasile), works also as a mathematician at the Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Faculty of University of Cluj- Napoca. They have a daughter Sanda (born 1968), who works also as a mathematician professor in U.S.A.

He held visiting positions at the Weizmann Institute of Sciences (Rehovat Israel), University of Dolian (China), University of Trieste (Italy), University of Auckland (New Zealand), Akdeniz University Antalya (Turkey), University of Heidelberg (Germany), University of Stuttgart (Germany), Universite de Metz (Prance), Universität Hamburg (Germany), Universita Degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" (Italy), Politecnico di Milano (Italy), and Universität Bremen (Germany).

He had fellowships from the University of Freiburg (Alexander von Humboldt - West Germany) and University of Kentucky Lexington (Fullbright Fellow - U.S.A.).

He was invited at the varied universities to deliver lectures and to present communications in the field of numerical solution of differential and integral equations by spline functions. Among them we mention: Bochüm, Darmstadt, Karlsruhe, Aachen, Göttingen, Oberwolfach, Siegen, Hamburg, Berlin, Freiburg, Heidelberg, Mainz, Manheim, Evlagen, Stuttgart, Würzburg, Augsburg (Germany): Torino, Milano (Italy): Tel Aviv, Haifa (Israel); Dublin (Ireland); Chişinau (Moldavia); Prague (Czech); Budapest (Hungary): Helsinki (Finland): Teajon (South Korea): Antalya (Turkey); Barcelona (Spain): Zürich (Switzerland) and Beijing (China).

In 1973 Gheorghe Micula was awarded the "*First Prize in Mathematics*" by the Balkan Union of Mathematics, in Athenes and in 1980 he was awarded "Prize I" of the Romanian Academy of Sciences for the book entitled "*Spline Functions and Applications*" (Technical Publishing House, Bucharest 1978, 336 pp.).

Professor Gheorghe Micula has participated as invited speaker at: International Conference on "*Functional Differential Equations and Applications*", Akdeniz University Antalya, Turkey (1977, July); the 3rd European Congress of Mathematics, Barcelona, Spain (2000, July 10 - 14): the International Colloquium on the Application of Mathematics, in Memoriam "Luthar Colatz", Hamburg, Germany (2000, September 28 - 30); the First Conference of the Mathematical Society of Moldova, Chişinău (2001, August 15 - 20) and the GAMM Taguny, 2002, University of Augsburg, Germany (2002, march 24- 30).

As invited Chairman he has participated in many events: the International Conference on Multifield Problems, University of Stuttgart, Germany (2002, April 7 - 12); the Workshop "*Giornati di Studio su Fuzioni Spline e Fuzioni Radiali: Applicazioni a Problemi Integrali e Differenziali*", Universita degli Studi di Torino, Italy (2003, February 5 - 15); the Convegno Annuale GNCS 2003: "*Calcolo Scientifico, Modelli e Metodi Numerici Innovativi*", Politecnico di Milano, Italia (2003, February 15 - 20).

His publication list contains about 91 items (7 books and 84 original papers).

The main contributions in research work of Gheorghe Micula fall into the following list of topics: Numerical Solutions of Differential, Integral and Partial Differential Equations Spline Functions and Their Applications, Numerical Analysis and the Theory of Approximation. The results obtained by Gheorghe Micula in these topics have been maintained and used on the important papers and books published by J. Böhmer, J. Butcher, J. N. Subbotin, W. Schempp, G. Meinaidars, H. Brunner, N. H. Mülthei, G. Hömerlin, Ju. S. Zavjalov, G. Nürnberger, J. W. Schmidt, W. Haussmann, B. D. Bojanov, K. E. Atkinson, J. Cyörtvery, B. Kaasov etc.

Since 1972 he has been a member of the Romanian Mathematical Society. For several years he was the president of this Society, Filiala Cluj-Napoca (1995 - 2003). He is also a member of the societies: " Gesellschaft für Angenwandte Mathematik and Mechanik" (Germany - 1974), "American Mathematical Society" (U.S.A. - 1978), "European Mechanics Society" (1994) and "European Mathematical Society" (U.S.A. - 1989).

For many years he has been a reviewer of the journals: "Mathematical Reviews" (U.S.A.) and "Zentraiblatt für Mathematik" (Germany).

He is member of several editorial committees of mathematical journals: Studia Univ. Babeş-Bolyai Informatica, Bulletin Mathematique de la Société des Sciences Mathématiques de Roumanie, Buletinul Şt. Univ.

Baia Mare and Seminar on Fixed Point Theory.

Since 1993 he has been advisor for the doctoral dissertation in the topics “Differential and Partial Equations”.

In May 2003 University of Oradea has awarded him the scientific title of Doctor Honoris Causa.

Professor Gheorghe Micula exerts a profound influence on many of his students. Micula's courses are irresistible. He gives his own ideas generously to his students.

Gheorghe Micula has a warm and sensitive personality. His door is always open to his friends. He enjoys discussions, often provocative ones, about mathematics, poetry, art and music.

He is himself “un homme libre”, free of all influences, and wants others to be the same.

List of Mathematical Publications of Professor dr. Gheorghe Micula

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