



In Memoriam

Professor Eddie Leonardi (1952–2008)



Professor Eddie Leonardi, Head of the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at The University of New South Wales (UNSW), lost a four month battle with melanoma and died in a German hospital on Sunday, 14 December 2008. He was just 56 years old.

Eddie was a wise and helpful counsellor to his colleagues. We would all turn to him with our computer problems, for example. And whatever we asked him, no task was too great that he could not solve it – and no task was too small that he would not bother. He had great plans for the development of teaching and research in the School, but he was not given the time to implement them. His colleagues and friends outside the School have been overwhelming in their feelings of tenderness, sadness and loss. They have referred again and again to his kindness and generosity. One wrote “I really admired him for his helpfulness and his sunny attitude ... he brought friendship and happiness to many”. Another said “We lost a leader in this field at such an early age ... we share [with his family] this loss of a very respected member of our community.”

He gave his wholehearted attention to his graduate students, and was careful and equally thorough in the preparation and delivery of his lectures to undergraduates. He was at the peak of his life and career, having recently been appointed Head of School, been married and moved into a new home. He was a keen surfer all his life – a passion that may perhaps have led to his illness – and in recent years developed, with his wife Victoria, a love of music and a taste for the theatre. He was a loving and caring husband and father, and a very dear friend to all who knew him. He was a generous, kind, and fine man, who loved Australia and enjoyed life.

Eddie Leonardi was born in Cles, Trento, in the north of Italy and came to Australia at the age of 5. He obtained his B.Sc.(Eng.). in Mechanical Engineering with Merit in 1977 and his Ph.D. in 1984, both from UNSW. He married Louisa Said in 1972 and they had two sons Christopher and Adam. The marriage ended in 1992 and in 2006 he married Victoria Timchenko.

His undergraduate degree was obtained by part time study while he was an Assistant Engineer with the NSW Department of Public Works. In 1977 he joined the staff of UNSW as a Research Fellow and became a member of the academic staff in 1982. He moved up the academic scale, becoming a Professor in 2000 and Deputy Head of School in 2004. He was appointed Head of School in 2008. During his academic career he also held many short term appointments as Visiting Professor or Visiting Fellow at overseas universities and research institutions in Cergy (in the outskirts of Paris), Florida, Göttingen, Haifa, Harwell, Hong Kong, Limoges, Lyon, Marseille, Rome and Warsaw.

In addition to being Head of School he was, or had been, Director of Research, of Computing, of the Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Research Laboratory and of the Refrigeration & Air Conditioning (R&AC) Laboratory in the School. He developed the R&AC Laboratory into a major testing and research facility, the only nationally accredited R&AC testing laboratory in Australia.

Eddie's teaching interests included CFD, thermodynamics, R&AC and heat transfer and his research covered CFD/CHT and also R&AC. Eddie was a consultant to industry in refrigeration, air conditioning and heat transfer. In addition, he was a consultant to government on the evaluation of Minimum Energy Performance Standards

and the determination of appropriate testing and rating methods for air conditioners and commercial refrigeration systems and was a member of several national and international standards and other professional committees. He had been Technical Editor and Chairman of the *AIRAH Journal* and editor or co-editor of many international conference proceedings, as well as Secretary or Co-Chair of several international conferences. He was on the Honorary Editorial Advisory Board of the *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer*, the *International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer*, and other journals. He was External Academic Advisor to the Department of Building and Construction, City University of Hong Kong.

He received many academic awards and prizes, including several during his undergraduate degree, as well as the W.R. Ahern Award for best technical paper in the *AIRAH Journal* for 1988, an *AIRAH Citation* for contributions to the Air Conditioning Industry in 1994 and Life Membership of *AIRAH* for outstanding contributions to the *AIRAH Journal* in 1998. He was elected a Fellow of *AIRAH* for contributions to the air conditioning industry in 2000. He was also a member of other major mechanical engineering institutions: Engineers Australia, ASME and ASHRAE.

Graham de Vahl Davis*, Sydney, Australia
Faruk Arinç, Istanbul, Turkey
Tracie Barber, Sydney, Australia
Rachid Bennacer, Cergy, France
Ernest Donnelley, Canberra, Australia
Mohamed El Ganaoui, Limoges, France
Marco Fossa, Genova, Italy
Tomek Kowalewski, Warsaw, Poland
Sami Kara, Sydney, Australia

In 2008 he was made "Industry Mentor" by the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers' Association (AREMA) in recognition of his long-term contribution to the industry. Also in 2008 he was elected a Fellow of the International Centre for Heat and Mass Transfer in recognition of his many contributions to ICHMT Symposia and his long and active service on the ICHMT Executive Committee.

He was the author, co-author or editor of eight books or chapters in books, and the author or co-author of 49 refereed journal papers, 116 refereed conference papers in proceedings published as books, 42 other conference papers and 24 other publications.

On behalf of the editors of this journal and the world-wide heat transfer community, we offer our condolences to his parents Giuseppe and Bice Leonardi, his wife Victoria Timchenko, his sons Christopher and Adam and his sister Julie Taranto and brother Stephen.

He is tenderly missed by his many friends and colleagues around the world, including

Christophe Menezo, Le Bourget-Du-Lac, France
Chris Menictas, Sydney, Australia
Wally Minkowycz, Chicago, IL, USA
Alan Obrart, Sydney, Australia
John Reizes, Sydney, Australia
Brian Spalding, London, UK
Fulvio Stella, Rome, Italy
Micha Wolfshtein, Haifa, Israel
Richard Yuen, Hong Kong

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