

# MEMORIAL RESOLUTION DONALD BAGANOFF

(1932-2004)

Donald Baganoff, Professor Emeritus of Aeronautics and Astronautics for more than 32 years, died on December 17, 2004, at his home in Palo Alto. A dedicated teacher and researcher, Professor Baganoff was 72. He suffered a severe stroke on November 19, 2004.

Professor Baganoff is remembered as an outstanding teacher and one of the foremost researchers in the world in the field of high-speed gas dynamics. He pioneered new computational algorithms that enabled the simulation of rarified gas flows, such as those that exist around the space shuttle during reentry. As a researcher he specialized in the computation of high-speed, high-temperature flow, such as the pressures put on a space shuttle when it enters earth's atmosphere. His approach was based on the direct calculation of trillions of molecular collisions. Recent developments in computer technology made Baganoff's work even more relevant.

His colleague, Professor Brian Cantwell, characterized him as one of the foremost researchers in high-temperature gas dynamics in the United States and the world.

At the end of his career Professor Baganoff made particularly significant contributions to the numerical modeling of fluid mechanics problems using a statistical approach in a very innovative way.

He was born January 22, 1932, in Crystal City, Missouri, the son of Trifon and Olga Baganoff, who had emigrated from Macedonia, Yugoslavia. He earned a bachelor's degree from Purdue University in 1957, a master's degree from Washington University in 1960, and a doctorate from the California Institute of Technology in 1964. He remained at Caltech as a research fellow for one year before accepting an appointment as a faculty member in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Stanford in 1965.

He had a passion for teaching and was honored at least twice by his students with an Outstanding Teacher Award. Indeed, he was the first Professor voted by students as the Department's most outstanding teacher. After 32 years of teaching he retired at the end of 1997. He became an emeritus professor in 1998.

His colleague Professor Cantwell, observed that Professor Baganoff was a dedicated advisor who made time for students who needed help. He was one of those advisors who had a very caring attitude about his students.

Professor Baganoff enjoyed playing golf, tennis, swimming, ice-skating, and jogging. He loved football. He would frequently attend Stanford and San Francisco 49ers games with his three daughters. He also learned ballroom dancing and taught himself to play classical guitar.

He loved classical music. In his office on the third floor of the William Frederick Durand Building, he typically had his radio tuned to one or the other of the two principal

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FM classical music stations in the Bay Area, KKHI of fond memory or KDFC. His wife, Kay Baganoff, was an opera singer who sang roles with West Bay Opera in Palo Alto.

Professor Baganoff is survived by his wife, Kay, of Palo Alto; his brother, Fred, in St. Louis, Missouri; his three daughters, Kathryn Baganoff-Uhlig of Danville, CA; Michelle Baganoff-Keither of Newark, CA, and Deborah Baganoff of Mountain View and 6 grandchildren for whom he reveled in the role of a doting grandfather.

A memorial service was held for him in Memorial Church on Tuesday, February 1, 2004.

Committee:  
George S. Springer, Chair  
Brian J. Cantwell