



PREFACE

On 15 July 2010 Professor Wilson Sergio Venturini passed away at the age of 61. He was a man with exceptional qualities; an excellent husband, father and grandfather. Professor Venturini was born in Jaú, São Paulo state, Brazil on 15 August 1948 and leaves behind a huge number of friends and admirers as well as his family. Among his qualities one may emphasize his enthusiasm for research, generosity in promoting people and scientific originality. Professor Venturini graduated in Civil Engineering at the “Escola de Engenharia de São Carlos da Universidade de São Paulo” where he also obtained his master degree in Structural Engineering. He developed his research, teaching and other activities at the same institution. He pursued his Ph.D. studies at the University of Southampton in 1982 under the guidance of Professor Carlos Alberto Brebbia. He went on to develop high quality research and taught countless students. He was a Visiting Researcher at many universities, including the “Universitadi Roma La Sapienza” in 1989, the “Politécnico di Milano” in 1993, the “Ecole Normale Superieure” in 1996 and the “Université Pierre et Marie Curie”. He supervised 30 masters degrees, 32 doctoral degrees, published 3 books, 13 book chapters, 56 journal papers and 221 conference papers.

In addition to these research and teaching activities, Professor Venturini occupied key positions in the university and research supporting agencies. He was Department Head at the School of Engineering, São Carlos, Engineering Coordinator at both CAPES (Brazilian Federal Agency for the Promotion of Higher Education) and at FAPESP (State of São Paulo Research Foundation) and was a member of the CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) Awards Panel. Wherever he went, he made friends, who are all missing him today.

A few words by Carlos A. Brebbia

Wilson Venturini was one of the brightest Ph.D. students I had the pleasure of supervising when I was at Southampton University. He became a good friend of mine and a steady supporter of our Wessex Institute of Technology. My first contact with Brazilian academics was when I was on a leave of absence at the School of Engineering at São Carlos, which Wilson served with great distinction for the whole of his academic and research life. Wilson was one of the first group of Brazilian students who, after joining our Southampton research group, helped to create their own school up on returning to their country. This school is now well established and Brazil which became one of the most prominent countries in the field of Boundary Element research. He also served for a long time as a member of the International Journal of Engineering Analysis with Boundary Elements. He was always prompt and accurate with his reviews and contributed many papers to the journal. His presence will also be missed as a Member of the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the annual Boundary Elements Conference, where he was always welcome. His warm personality and excellence in research made him one of the most popular members of our group. Wilson’s work endures in the many young people he has helped to train in the field of boundary elements. He was an excellent teacher as well as a good friend to all of them. His contribution to engineering sciences will keep his name alive for many years among his friends and colleagues throughout the world, who will miss him greatly.

Carlos A. Brebbia