

N. PAPAGHIUC – IN MEMORIAM
(1947–2008)



Professor Neculai Papaghiuc died Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at the age of 61 under critical care after a short struggle following a stroke. Known to his friends and colleagues as Nicu, he was a tenured Professor of Mathematics at the Technical University of Iași, Romania.

He was born in Darabani, Botoșani county, on the 14 th of June 1947. Professor Papaghiuc was the fourth of eight children in the family of Gheorghe and Emilia Papaghiuc. He studied primary, secondary and the theoretic high school in Darabani. In this period he collaborated with the famous "Gazeta matematică", and took part in many mathematical contests, proving a real talent for mathematics.

Professor Papaghiuc entered the Faculty of Mathematics of the "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași in 1965. He became an exceptional student, having excellent results, participating in scientific seminars for students. He represented the students in the Council of the Faculty of Mathematics and was the president of the Students'

Association at the Faculty. Professor Papaghiuc graduated in 1970 and in the same year he began to work as an Assistant Professor for the Faculty of Mathematics. He was admitted as a PhD student in 1971 with the maximal mark in a programme coordinated by the late Professor Gh. Gheorghiev. Professor Papaghiuc was a pioneer in the development of a differential calculus on local convex spaces, which may be applied in the study of the differential geometry of the manifolds modeled by local convex spaces. He passed all the exams and reports from his individual preparation programme, obtaining maximal marks in the period 1971-1973. Professor Papaghiuc defended his PhD thesis with the title "Differential calculus in local convex spaces and applications to the global differential geometry" on 8th of June 1977.

He was married Viorica Papaghiuc. The couple had two children, a boy and a girl, who were loved, raised and educated with dedication. The daughter Daniela studied Mathematics, like her father, and she is now an Associate Professor in Pau, France. The son Neculai is a very good specialist in the field of Computer Science and he is now in the USA.

After five years as Assistant Professor at the Chair of Geometry from "Al. I. Cuza" University (1973-1978), he moved on a position of lecturer at the Department of Mathematics in the "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași. In 1990 he was appointed as an associate professor, and after only three years, in 1993 he became a full professor. The teaching activity of Prof. Papaghiuc, carried with talent, passion and dedication, covers important domains: Analytic Geometry, Differential Geometry, Projective Geometry, Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, Superior and Special Mathematics for engineers. He was always available and generous, when the students or his colleagues needed hints or guidance. He contributed at the creation of specialists from numerous series of graduates of the faculties of Mathematics, Physics, Textiles-Leather Engineering and Industrial Management, Electronics-Telecommunications and Electrical Engineering.

Prof. Papaghiuc published four books which represent the reformulations on new bases of his own courses given at the Technical University of Iași, with contents corresponding to the requirements for the future engineers, and with the practical applications adapted to the specialization domains. He had exceptional scientific results, besides his teaching duties. Prof. Papaghiuc developed a differential calculus on local convex spaces, applied in the differential geometry, he studied the differential geometry of some classes of submanifolds in almost contact metric manifolds, Sasaki, Kenmotsu and Lagrange manifolds. He found classes of Kähler, Einstein-Kähler, anti-Hermitian, Einstein-anti-Kähler, Ricci flat, locally symmetric structures on the tangent and cotangent bundles of (pseudo-)Riemannian manifolds.

Professor Papaghiuc was a member in a group that established a cooperation between "Al.I. Cuza" University and the "Gh. Asachi" Technical University of Iași. He was also part of a group of Spanish researchers in Differential Geometry, coordinated by J.M.Masque from CSIC, Madrid. He also participated to grants

and programs of fundamental research financed by Ministry of Education from Romania and the National Council for Scientific Research from Romania. The results of his work are rich and varied. He published more than 95 papers, 5 books, 30 articles in foreign journals (8 of them are ISI journals), 3 papers in the volumes of international conferences, 51 in Romanian journals recognized by CNCSIS and 6 in volumes of national conferences. More than 75 published papers were favorably reviewed by specialists, in *Mathematical Reviews* and in *Zentralblatt MATH*. The published results were cited and used in papers of more than 120 foreign mathematicians, in 7 monographs published abroad and at least 15 PhD theses at the universities from Iași, București, Timișoara and Cluj. He was a scientific reviewer at *Zentralblatt MATH*, Germany (more than 420 articles and speciality books reviewed), scientific referee at *Publicationes Mathematicae Debrecen* (Hungary), *Rendiconti del Circolo Mathematica di Palermo* (Italy), *Tamkang Mathematical Journal* (Taiwan), and *Scientific Annals of the Univ. "Al.I. Cuza" of Iași*. He presented conferences at several congresses in the country and abroad.

Professor Papaghiuc was an active member in the academic community: member of the Romanian Mathematical Sciences Society (SSM), member of the Seminarul Mathematic "A. Myller" from Iași, member in several boards of examiners for admissions at the faculties, admissions for PhD students, member in board of examiners for PhD preparation, referee for defending 15 PhD thesis, member in boards of examiners for ordinary professors, member in the Councils of the faculties of Mathematics, Textiles-Leather Engineering and Industrial Management, Electronics-Telecommunications and Electrical Engineering.

In the last time he had some problems with the blood pressure but he was always active and available for some scientific talk. However, after a preliminary stroke, he suddenly died due to another decisive stroke.

He was a complex personality with broad views, a good friend, husband, father, and a generous man.

Professor Papaghiuc remains present in the memory and heart of his family, colleagues, friends, collaborators, and former students.

V. Oproiu and S.L. Druță

