



The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department
of Electrical & Computer Engineering
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

**Memorial Tribute
To
ANASTASIOS (TAS) VENETSANOPOULOS**

**Dean Emeritus of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering
and Professor Emeritus of The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department
of Electrical & Computer Engineering**

February 10, 2015

Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering record with deep regret the death on November 17, 2014 of Anastasios Venetsanopoulos.

Dean Emeritus Anastasios Venetsanopoulos, better known as Tas, was a pillar of UofT Engineering, known for his pioneering research and strong leadership. He was a mentor and friend for many colleagues, and a guiding light for generations of students.

Tas received the Bachelor of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering degree from the National Technical University of Athens in 1965, and the Master of Applied Science, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering from Yale University in 1966, 1968 and 1969 respectively. He joined the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Toronto in September 1968 as a lecturer and was promoted to assistant, then associate professor with tenure in July 1974. He was promoted to full professor in July 1981.

Tas was an internationally renowned researcher in the fields of multimedia systems, digital signal and image processing, digital communications and biometrics. He made significant advances to our understanding of multidimensional filter theory and design, and has opened up new fields of inquiry in telecommunications, design of non-linear filters, multimedia neural networks and biometric techniques. He is regarded as a leading authority in the field of image processing, and introduced a number of techniques for colour image enhancement, filtering and analysis. Throughout his career he demonstrated an exceptional intuition for bridging laboratory research into broader engineering applications.

He wrote nine books and more than 850 papers, which have been cited more than 14,000 times, by recent Google Scholar count. Among a long list of professional accolades, he was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, and the Engineering Institute of Canada, as well as a member of the New York Academy of Science. Tas was awarded the IEEE's prestigious Millennium Medal and McNaughton Award. He was a Fulbright Scholar and a Schmitt Scholar, and in 1994 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from his alma mater, the National Technical University of Athens.

Tas's leadership in research was more than matched by his leadership of his students and peers. He served as president of the Canadian Society of Electrical Engineering from 1983-1986. From 1997-2001 he was associate chair, graduate studies, in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, and served as its acting chair from January to June 1999. That same year Tas became the inaugural Bell Canada Chair on Multimedia.

From 2001 to 2006, Tas led the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering as its 12th dean. During his term, UofT Engineering was involved in a major fundraising campaign and the construction of two buildings, The Bahen Centre for Information Technology and the Terrence Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research. In 2006 Tas retired to become a professor emeritus.

That year he joined Ryerson University as the school's founding vice-president of research and innovation, a portfolio that included oversight of the university's international activities, research ethics, Office of Research Services and Office of Innovation and Commercialization. He retired from that position in 2010 but remained a distinguished advisor to the role. Tas continued to actively supervise his research group at the University of Toronto, and was a highly sought-after consultant throughout his career.

Tas was respected by colleagues the world over, but nowhere more so than here in Toronto. With an ever-present smile, he motivated and inspired generations of young engineers to follow his example and become leaders themselves. His peers remember him as an enormously accomplished scholar as well as a wonderful and kind person. He is deeply missed by students, staff and faculty alike.

Be it further resolved that a record of his service be inscribed in the minutes of this Council, and that a copy be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of Council.

[Prepared by Marit Mitchell]