Remembering Dusan (Krajcinovic)

I have been assigned the honor of remembering our good friend and distinguished colleague, Dusan Krajcinovic, who passed away August 10, 2007, at the young age of 72. Dusan and his loving wife, Tanya, were dear friends to Eva and me, as I am sure, they were to many of you at this distinguished gathering.

Dusan was an intellectual and a sports enthusiast. He kept fit and encouraged others to seek to do the same. He was an accomplished soccer player in his youth, and swam and played tennis. Parallel with this, he did good mechanics and, being encouraged by Jan Achenbach, he wrote a treatise on Damage Mechanics, published in 1996, a 774-page impressive contribution to the community. He also read extensively on a variety of subjects, particularly historical accounts of Byzantine and Serbian culture.

I will now walk you through a set of photographs that maps, though most inadequately, his journey through life, enriched by his personal qualities, drive to do the best, and as a result, he impacted both the mechanics community and his family and his friends.

Dusan was born in Belgrade, and here is his picture, having achieved the old age of one, for which he had just been christened (top, left); Dusan standing tall among a supporting family (middle); A happy lad (right).
A handsome fellow; 
… with a handsome set of hair 
… standing tall sailor 
… busy at work – yet with some flare.

But where did all that handsome hair go!

Graduating with distinction; 
Pushing rocks in Egypt; 
Falling in love 
… and displaying affection.
Honor and fun;  
… honoring a friend in Tohoku;  
… hosting students at home;  
Chatting with Jan.

A long happy partnership  
An affectionate daughter getting married  
… and a proud father  
In nutshell, Dusan Krajcinovic.

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Dusan fought bravely the disease that continued to eat at his speech ability, while he continued to be active in professional societies and in contributing to the literature on mechanics. He had a great sense of humor, and, as his daughters, Ivana and Maya report, even in the last days of his life, there were moments that Dusan could find a way to introduce some humor to ease the pain of his family that did not want to see him go. Yet, what awaits all of us, finally caught up with him, as is expressed by the great American poetess, Emily Dickinson through these lines.

*Because I could not stop for Death,*  
*He kindly stopped for me;*

He will be remembered by his good friends and his family, as expressed by this poem of a yet to-be-discovered poet,

*When a friend dies, one isn't truly lost...*  
*But is found and lives in the hearts of all of us*  
*Brian Apollo*

Dusan enjoyed a well-lived life, enriched by a loving family, good friends, and intellectual and scientific achievements. He loved sports, opera, and above all his family and friends. His friends will remember him always.

I am sure Dusan would have approved had he known that I would be completing my comments by citing the tender thoughts expressed by his daughters through these words:

*It is a liberating feeling to realize that memories of a life well lived are what provide the real sustenance for our final days.*  
*Ivana & Maya*