DEDICATED TO PROFESSOR GERASIMOS LADAS

GERASIMOS LADAS – HIS LIFE AND WORK

Professor Gerasimos Ladas was born in Greece. He completed his undegraduate studies, supported with a fellowship, in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Athens, where he graduated "summa cum laude", in 1961. In 1964 he was accepted, with a fellowship, to the graduate program in mathematics at New York University's Courant Institute where he received his Ph.D in 1968. He taught at Fairfield University in Connecticut in 1968 and then moved to join the faculty of Mathematics at the University of Rhode Island in 1969. In 1975 he was promoted to the rank of Full Professor of Mathematics at the University of Rhode Island. He was the Department Chairperson from 1972 to 1978, the Graduate Program Director from 1982 to 1986, and the Director of the Ph.D. Program in Applied Mathematical Sciences from 1992 to 1997.

The research interests of Professor Ladas are in the areas of Differential and Difference Equations. He has done seminal work in the oscillation theory of delay differential and difference equations. His monograph (with Gyori) is one of the most cited books in this area. For the last twenty years Professor Ladas and his collaborators have made outstanding discoveries in the area of rational difference equations. Furthermore, motivated by rational difference equations Professor Ladas and his collaborators have obtained a large number of powerful global stability results for quite general non linear difference equations.

Professor Ladas has published over 270 research papers, 3 textbooks and 6 monographs. His publications appeared in many international mathematical journals. He has presented his research work at numerous conferences, both national and international. His talks usually include a comprehensive set of open problems and conjectures showing new directions in his area. Professor Ladas has served as a Member of the Scientific or Organizing Committee of numerous International Conferences and co-edited the Proceedings of 8 International Conferences. Many times he was invited abroad to give lectures and many mathematicians from around the world have visited the Mathematics Department at the University of Rhode Island and have collaborated with Professor Ladas. He also does joined research work with many mathematicians around the world.

Since 1966 Professor Ladas is a Member of the American Mathematical Society. Professor Ladas is the co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Difference Equations and Applications (with Saber Elaydi), the editor of the Book Series Discrete Mathematics and Applications, and the Associate Editor of 15 other mathematics journals. He is also a referee of mathematics research proposals for: National Science Foundation, U. S. Army Research Office, Research Corporation, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

Professor Ladas is one of the co-founders (with Bernd Aulbach, Saber Elaydi, and Istvan Gyori) of the International Society of Difference Equations. He is a member of the Board of Directors and the treasurer of the Society.

His role in the education of young mathematicians at the University of Rhode Island is very important. He is the major professor of 22 Ph. D. students.

In 1987 he received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the University of Rhode Island and in 1996 the Excellence in Research Award. Also in 2005 he received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the University of Ioannina (Greece).

Professor Gerry Ladas is a highly cited mathematician. Actually, in 2007 he was selected to appear on ISIHighlyCited.com, because of his exceptional citation count in the field of mathematics. His contributions to mathematics are evidenced by the high number of citations that his publications have received. Less than one-half of 1% of all publishing authors meet the criteria for inclusion in the International Society of Highly Cited Scientists.

Jarosław Werbowski