

September 7, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The 8th International Congress on Thermal Stresses will take place at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, from June 1 to 4, 2009. Several of the sessions at this prestigious event will be dedicated to the memory of the Virginia Tech Engineering Science and Mechanics Professor Liviu Librescu. After a highly productive and illustrious life, Professor Librescu died on April 16, 2007 in the Virginia Tech senseless tragedy. His widely-respected and influential academic career spanned the past fifty years, during which he has made a major impact on a number of important research topics in modern solid mechanics, science and technology of advanced materials and structures, as well as on the lives of many students and other scholars. Specifically, Professor Librescu made significant contributions to modern aero-thermo-elasticity and unsteady aerodynamics, plates and shell anisotropic laminated composite and sandwich structures; dynamic instability of thermo- and visco-elastic structures, smart materials, multifunctional and functionally graded materials and structures.

Professor Liviu Librescu was the General Chair of the 5th edition of the Thermal Stresses Congress, the TS2003, hosted by Virginia Tech. I had the pleasure and privilege to work with him on that exciting and challenging project. As many of you will agree, while Professor Librescu attended a countless number of conferences, congresses and symposia, without any doubt the Thermal Stresses Congresses and the Thermal Stresses Family are the one he loved most.

These sessions will honor and celebrate his many accomplishments with a series of invited talks that will cover a broad range of research areas in which Professor Librescu has had a major influence. In particular, invited contributions will include topics on composite materials and structures ranging from aero-thermo-elasticity and control of thin-walled composite thermal structures to functionally graded materials and related issues in the mechanics of heterogeneous materials and instability of structures under thermo-mechanical loadings.

In light of your contributions in the above areas, and to honor the memory of Liviu, it is indeed our pleasure to invite you to contribute a paper and presentation in the Librescu sessions. The attached file provides some of the details of the conference, and provides important links to related information.

We hope that you and/or your students will be able to attend this conference and contribute to the symposia honoring Professor Librescu. For planning purposes, please let us know by October 1st whether you will be in a position to accept this invitation.

With best regards,



Pier Marzocca (pmarzocc@clarkson.edu)
Liviu Librescu Session Organizer
Clarkson University



and Marek-Jerzy Pindera (mp3g@virginia.edu)
Liviu Librescu Session Co-Organizer
University of Virginia