

In Memoriam: Minel J. Braun, Distinguished Professor Emeritus

October 7, 1947–November 26, 2021

Minel Jack Braun was born in Bucharest, Romania, on October 7, 1947. His parents were Dita Braun and Jacques Negreanu. Jack attended The Polytechnic Institute in Bucharest where he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1970. After relocating to Germany, Jack received a scholarship to attend Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburg, PA). At Carnegie, he earned both a Masters (1974) and doctorate (1978) in Mechanical Engineering. In 1979, Jack was hired by the University of Akron (Akron, OH) as an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering. He was tenured in 1983, became Associate Professor in 1984, Full Professor in 1989, and was awarded Distinguished Professor in 2008.

Dr. Braun's area of expertise in thermodynamics extended to thermo-fluids modeling and fluid flow stability through numerical simulations, experimental tribology and image processing with application to nonintrusive measurements of pressure, velocity, and temperature in bearings and seals, as well as other structures associated with rotating machinery architecture. In his 42 years at The University of Akron, Professor Braun graduated 31 Masters students and 22 Doctoral students. He published over 110 technical journal publications and over 220 conference publications, contributed to three book chapters, edited six books, and served as associate editor of several international engineering journals including, most recently, *Mechanics and Industry*, for which he was an associate editor until his passing. Professor Braun developed numerous laboratories for the study of tribology and flow visualization including oil, wind, and water tunnel facilities; flow

visualization for thin fluid films, two-phase flow, and hydrostatic and hydrodynamic bearings; and a gas turbine test facility for counter-rotating shafts. He was the recipient of numerous Certificates of Recognition from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), and the Society of Tribology and Lubrication Engineers (STLE). Professor Braun also received multiple awards for outstanding research and teaching from the University of Akron. He has been awarded five patents: four in sealing and bearing technologies and one in energy storage/solar energy. Throughout his academic career, Professor Braun obtained government, state, and private research funding totaling over US\$10.5M. He was consistently active in academia, acted as a consultant to industry, and organized numerous symposia within the framework of ASME.

Jack Braun was as passionate and committed to his research as he was to his students. He made a lifelong commitment to each student he took on to guide and mentor through their professional and personal lives. He also had great passion for the arts, travel, and food. Thirteen years ago, Jack met his love, Marina and her chocolate labradoodle, Coco. They spent much time traveling to New York and Europe, visiting their favorite museums and restaurants as well as visiting with her son Greg, daughter-in-law Nika, and their children. Jack and Marina also spent much time vacationing with her mother Emma and friends in Florida.

Jack had great impact on so many of his students, colleagues, friends, and family. He will be deeply missed.