



IOSIF IZRAILEVICH VOROVICH (21.6.1920–6.9.2001)†



Iosif Izrailevich Vorovich, friend and teacher, a man of rare kindness and charm, a great scientist, Director of the Scientific Research Institute of Mechanics and Applied Mathematics of Rostov State University (RSU), Head of the Department of Elasticity Theory of the RSU, Doctor of Physico-Mathematical Sciences, Professor and Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, passed away on the 6 September 2001 at the age of 81.

Professor Vorovich was the author of over 280 papers in the field of mechanics and the author and coauthor of nine monographs. His scientific school includes over 20 doctors of science and over 50 masters of science.

On his initiative, in 1960 the Department of Elasticity Theory, which he headed from the start, was set up at the RSU. He organized the teaching and scientific activity of the Department. Practically all the staff of the Department are his pupils.

He prepared and ran a number of courses on modern elasticity theory at the RSU, some of which were first set up and taken by him.

From the very foundation of the Institute of Mechanics and Applied Mathematics of Rostov State University in 1971, he was its Director. He devoted much effort to scientific research, to shaping the scientific profile of the Institute and the scientific directions taken by it, and to implementing scientific results in the national economy. Scientists of the Institute of Mechanics and Applied Mathematics of the RSU have repeatedly been cited for progress in solving theoretical and applied problems (they included four winners of the USSR and Russian Federation State Prize).

Professor Vorovich himself was awarded six orders (the Order of the Red Banner of Labour, the Order of the Patriotic War (World War II) Second Class, the Order of the Friendship of Nations two Badges of Honour and the Order for Services to the Homeland 4th Class) and 12 medals. For scientific services, he was awarded the Academician P. L. Kapitsa Medal and the Academician A. A. Blagonravov Medal.

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In 1983 he won the USSR State Prize for the development of a simulation model of the ecosystem of the Azov Sea and its use in systems analysis, forecasting and controlling the natural-industrial complex (as coauthor), in 1988 he won the Russian Federation State Prize for a cycle of work on "Fundamental Problems of the Theory of Thin-walled Structures" (as coauthor), and he was the coauthor of the scientific discovery "The Effect of High-frequency Resonance in Semibounded Bodies with Inhomogeneities" (1994).

He was a member of the Russian National Committee for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Chairman of the Controlling Council of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation for Mechanics, and from 1993 he headed the Southern Department of the Russian Engineering Academy.

He paid a great deal of attention to developing multifaceted scientific and technical links between the scientific sections of Rostov State University that were headed by him and scientists from other regions of Russia, of non-CIS countries of the former USSR and of foreign countries further afield. Within the framework of the North Caucasian Scientific Centre, he headed the Department of Mathematics and Mechanics, which coordinates the scientific research of all the scientific institutions of the North Caucasus. He was a member of the Main Editorial Staff and Chairman of the Editorial Board of the journal *Izvestiya Vysshikh Uchebnykh Zavedenii. Severo-Kavkazskii Region. Yestestvennye Nauki*. The Rostov Scientific School of Mechanics he founded traditionally has close ties with scientists of the Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia.

With the Scientific Research Institute of Mechanics and Applied Mathematics he headed, the RSU received its final organizational status as a Centre of Perfection for Hybrid Microcircuit Technologies – the result of collaboration of scientists of the Institute over a 3-year period with the University of Alabama (Huntsville) and the Intergraph Corporation.

Under his leadership and his direct participation, close scientific contacts were established with scientists at Dortmund University in Germany. He was also Scientific Director of the international project "Limiting States and Non-destructive Inspection of Elements of Structures". He was the initiator and Scientific Director of the joint scientific project "Collaboration of Scientists of Rostov State University and Dortmund University in the Field of Mechanics", including different aspects of the mechanics of deformable rigid bodies.

It is impossible to describe all the many facets of the man himself. Always busy, pondering something of great importance, hurrying off somewhere, he nonetheless found time to look kindly upon those who in some way or other were deserving of his attention.

His death is a great loss and that loss is irreplaceable. His memory will always be in our hearts.

Translated by P.S.C.