

## We Lost another Friend



Prof. Alex Rubinov (1940-2006)

It is very sad to inform you that a well-known OR scientist Professor Alex Rubinov of Ballarat University passed away at 11pm on Saturday September 9, 2006. As a result, the operations research community lost a great friend and highly valuable scientist.

Alex was born in Leningrad (now St Petersburg), Russia, in 1940 and did his undergraduate studies at Leningrad State University. This was followed by a Ph.D. in Novosibirsk (Siberia) and an advanced doctorate at Moscow University. He then held positions in Leningrad, Novosibirsk, Karlini (Russia), Baku (Azerbaijan) and Beersheba (Israel). He joined the University of Ballarat in 1996.

The University of Ballarat quickly recognised its luck in having an international researcher and scholar of the calibre of Alex Rubinov and appointed him Professor of Mathematics. Six years ago, the University Council established the research centre CIAO (Centre for Informatics and Applied Optimization) with Alex as its founding Director. Under his leadership, CIAO has been extremely successful in becoming a research centre of both national and international repute. It is recognised for its theoretical and applied research.

Alex was the son, brother and husband of mathematicians. Professor Phil Howlett of

the University of South Australia said "Alex was a very fine mathematician who made a magnificent contribution to mathematics in Australia. His passing is a great loss".

It is not easy to summarize Alex's academic contributions to University of Ballarat (UB) as they are so extensive. He published over 200 research papers in refereed international journals. He authored, co-authored and edited 27 books and journal special issues. He won ARC Discovery and Linkage grants as well as industry grants. But his contributions were not only his own research output: he also attracted to the staff of UB first-class researchers from around the world, especially from the former Soviet Union. He moulded these researchers into a fine team. He also supervised a large number of research students, many of whom he attracted to UB from overseas.

The School of ITMS is regarded by its members as a "family", and in this context Alex was the father of research in ITMS. To him goes most credit for the research output of ITMS increasing ninefold in the last six years.

He placed UB on the map for research in non-smooth optimization. His most recent winning grant was with Dr Musa Mammadov of ITMS and was a \$156,000 ARC Linkage

Grant entitled "Using global optimization techniques to determine the most efficient use of building/floor space to accommodate a given office design".

Recently, EUROPT, the European Continuous Optimization Working Group honoured him by appointing him the EUROPT Fellow 2006. Alex organised a number of optimization workshops and conferences at UB, the last of which attracted over 300 participants to Ballarat.

Many mathematicians do their best work before they are 40 and their publication rate drops off dramatically as they age. This could not be further from the truth in the case of Alex. In recent years he was at the pinnacle of his research productivity and to the end had plans and initiatives for the future.

To focus on Alex's academic achievements alone would be to ignore Alex the person. The School of ITMS has 80 staff, all of whom liked and respected him as a scholar and as a person. Despite his great achievements, Alex was a modest and humble man. Professor Mirka Miller used the following words in connection with Alex: "excellence, integrity, gentleness, and excellence again." Professor Sid Morris said Alex was "a gentleman and a scholar and a truly lovely person". Professor Karl Hofmann of the Darmstadt University of Technology, who has visited the University of Ballarat for extended periods, described Alex as "a very gentle, unobtrusive, modest person of great creativity".

#### **A Letter from Prof Alex Rubinov's Wife**

Dear friends,  
Alex was not going to leave this World, he was always a very optimistic, and an

amazingly responsible person he felt responsible for all those with whom he was working.

There is so much I can tell you about Alex, and I am going to start doing this during the Workshop in Ballarat in November. Alex was planning to write about some interesting periods of his life, and now feel I should undertake this work.

As many of you know, I was helping Alex in organising research at CIAO, and we had a lot of discussions and plans for the future. We tried to bring the hardest working people to CIAO, although it was not easy, because of some people interests, bureaucracy and many other problems, and we spent a lot of time and energy for this. Alex has left this World, and now I would like to invite you to discuss on how to develop his ideas. It is the main question to all of us, it is the first problem to think about and it is the best way to pay tribute to Alex.

I would like to discuss it with all of Alex's colleagues and friends, and I hope we will find an optimal solution for this.

Zari  
(Dr Zari Dzalilov)

We would like to extend our condolences to Alex's family members both at Ballarat and St Peterburg.

More about Alex can be found in  
[http://www.scicol.shu.edu.cn/mathematics/or/condolences\\_alex.html](http://www.scicol.shu.edu.cn/mathematics/or/condolences_alex.html)  
<http://www.ballarat.edu.au/ard/itms/CIAO/condolences.shtml>

## Forthcoming Conferences

### **Operations Research Symposium 2006**

Australian Operations Research Society,  
ACT Chapter  
30th November 2006  
UNSW@ADFA, Canberra

The Australian Operations Research Society, ACT Chapter will host a one-day Symposium on Operations Research on 30th November 2006 at UNSW@ADFA, Canberra. The symposium will provide a forum for operations research scientists to exchange ideas and discuss their latest research and applications. All interested Operations Research academics and practitioners are invited to give a 20 - 30 minutes talk in the symposium.

The talks will be accepted based on its relevance to the symposium and quality of work content. The accepted talks will be notified by 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

To cover the cost of tea and lunch, there will be a small registration fee of \$20 for ASOR member and \$30 for non-member. Full-time students are free. Registration fee must be paid in cash at the registration desk on the day of symposium.

For planning purposes, it would be appreciated to receive your expression of interests by 10th November 2006. Expression of interests must be sent to either: *Dr Ruhul Sarker* (email: r.sarker@adfa.edu.au, Mailing address: School of ITEE, UNSW@ADFA, Northcott Drive, Canberra 2600, Telephone: 02 6268 8051) or *Dr Philip Kilby* (Philip.Kilby@nicta.com.au).

*Symposium Chair: Dr David Wood*, (David.Wood1@defence.gov.au), President, ASOR, ACT Chapter.

### **Recent Advances in Operations Research: Opportunities and Challenges**

The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia  
December 1, 2006

*This meeting is dedicated to the memory of Professor Alex Rubinov (1940-2006)*

This Mini-Conference is organized by the Melbourne Chapter of the Australian Society

for Operations Research (ASOR) and will be held on the campus of the University of Melbourne.

The main themes of the conference are:  
Decision Making Under Uncertainty  
Networks, Sensor Nets and Scheduling  
Efficient Utilization of Human and Natural Resources

However, presentations on other OR and OR related topics are welcome. We are particularly interested in presentations dealing with interdisciplinary, real-world applications of OR techniques. The deadline for abstract submission is November 17, 2006.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of OR and its strong links to other fields such as applied mathematics, computer science, and engineering, this event should be of interest also to delegates who are not fully-fledged OR professionals.

For catering purpose it is essential that you complete your registration by November 27, 2006.

Important Dates:

Submission of abstracts deadline:  
November 17, 2006

Registration deadline: November 27, 2006

Conference: December 1, 2006

We would to invite the delegates of the 5-th Ballarat Workshop on Global and Non-Smooth Optimization: Theory, Methods and Applications in Ballarat, November 28-30, to come to Melbourne on Friday and join us in this event.

**CIMCA2006:** International Conference on Computational Intelligence for Modelling, Control and Automation

28 November to 1 December 2006

Sydney, Australia

<http://www.ise.canberra.edu.au/conferences/cimca06/>

**VOCAL-2006:** The Veszprem Optimization Conference: Advanced Algorithms, December 13-15, Veszprem, hu  
<http://www.dcs.vein.hu/vocal/>

**DEA2007:** Data Envelopment Analysis and Performance Management, 5th International Symposium on DEA  
January 5-7, 2007, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, India  
<http://www.deazone.com/dea2007/>

**IESM'07:** International conference on Industrial Engineering and systems Management  
May 30, to June 2, 2007,  
Beijing  
URL: <http://www.i4e2.com/iesm/>

**MMR2007:** Mathematical Methods in Reliability Conference, 1-4 July, Glasgow, UK  
<http://www.mmr2007.org/>

**EURO XXII:** 22nd European Conference on Operational Research,  
8-11 July, Prague,  
<http://euro2007.vse.cz/>

**ICIAM2007:** 6th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics,  
16-20 July, Zurich, Switzerland  
<http://www.iciam07.ch/poster>

**Optimization 2007:** The sixth international conference on optimization,  
July 22-25, Porto, Portugal  
<http://www.fep.up.pt/opti2007/>

**Eight Hellenic European Research on Computer Mathematics and its Applications Conference,**  
20-22 September, 2007 Athens, Greece  
<http://www.aueb.gr/conferences/hercma2007/>

#### **INFORMS Future Meetings:**

INFORMS Annual Meeting 2006, Pittsburgh Convention Center and Westin Convention Center Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA, November 5-8, 2006

INFORMS Practice Conference, Spring 2007, Dates & location to be announced

INFORMS International Puerto Rico 2007, Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort & Spa, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, July 8-11, 2007

INFORMS Annual Meeting 2007, Washington State Convention & Trade Center and Sheraton Seattle, Seattle, WA, November 4-7, 2007

# ASOR News

## Farewell to Dudley Foster

Just to let you know that Dudley Foster, after serving 30 years in Australia, is moving to Scotland to start his new life. We like to thank Dudley and are grateful for his tireless service that he has applied to all aspects of OR life in Australia particularly in

Melbourne. From ASOR, let us wish him well in his new life in Scotland.

## ASOR New Website

ASOR has recently launched a new website <http://www.asor.org.au/>. Visit our new site and make suggestions for improvement. The front page of the site is shown below.

**asor**

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR OPERATION RESEARCH INCORPORATED  
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### Brief About Australian Society for Operation Research

The Australian Society For Operations Research (ASOR) was founded on 1st January, 1972 and has about 400 members nationwide. ASOR, like other national societies is affiliated to the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS).

ASOR serves the professional needs of OR analysts, managers, students and educators by publishing a National Bulletin and National and Chapter Newsletters. The society also serves as a focal point for operations researchers to communicate with each other and to reach out to other professional societies.

**The Society's objectives are to:**

- Foster the development of the science of Operations Research.
- Foster the application of Operations Research wherever appropriate.
- Foster the widest possible exchange of information and ideas on Operations Research and related subjects.
- Define standards of knowledge in and to further the study of Operations Research

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## ASOR Executives and Representatives for 2006-2007

The election of office bearers and members of the national council and ASOR representatives for the term 2006-2007 were held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 during the national council meeting (by telephone hook-up). The list of elected persons is reported below for ASOR members.

### Office Bearers and Members of the National Council

- President: Baikunth Nath
- Vice President Administration: Santosh Kumar
- Vice President Education: Moshe Sneidovich
- Treasurer: Kaye Marion
- Bulletin Editor: Ruhul Sarker

### ASOR Representatives:

- APORS – Erhan Kozan
- IFORS – Baikunth Nath
- AMSC – Lou Caccetta
- FASTS – Lou Caccetta
- Public Officer – Phil Kilby

### Other positions

- APJOR Associate-editors – Santosh Kumar, Erhan Kozan, Charles Pearce
- International Abstracts – Erhan Kozan
- APORS nominated V/P IFORS – Moshe Sneidovich