

Marina Anca CIDOTĂ¹

**IN THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ION VĂDUVA:
MY TEACHER, MY MENTOR, MY ADVISOR**

Professor Ion Văduva has greatly influenced my professional life, supporting me since the beginning of my academic career at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Bucharest.

I first met him as a professor during my master studies between 1998-2000, where he was teaching the course “Stochastic Methods”. This course, together with “Simulation Methods”, a course that was introduced by Professor Văduva in our faculty, aroused my interest and curiosity and put a solid base to my knowledge that allowed me to enrol in a PhD program later in 2001. Under the supervision of Professor Văduva, I successfully defended my PhD thesis “Stochastic methods and algorithms for signal analysis and processing” in 2008.

In 2000, during the second year of my master, Professor Văduva, together with Professor Ioan Tomescu, gave me the opportunity to teach a few labs and seminars at the faculty. This was my first teaching experience, and although accompanied by fear and tremble when I had to open my mouth in front of a class of university students, it made me realize that I would love to be a teacher as a profession. After graduation, he strongly encouraged and supported me to pursue an academic career at the faculty.

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In 2001, he recommended me to Professor Leon Rothkrantz, who hosted me as a guest researcher at TU Delft. This short visit was followed by others in 2011 and 2012 as a postdoc researcher at the University of Bucharest and then at TU Delft between 2014-2017. My whole Dutch experience was very valuable, through all the life and work challenges and opportunities that it offered me.

I always appreciated Professor Văduva's direct style in expressing his opinions, even when this was not very comfortable for me. Some of his remarks and comments will always remain in my mind. For example, he was very critical of people who give presentations at conferences and then leave, without attending the rest of the program. After hearing his position, I can say that whenever I participate in a conference, I deliberately choose to attend as many presentations as possible. And another thing I owe to Professor Văduva is that whenever I teach or present a paper, I am careful not to take myself too seriously.

Beyond the appearance of a tough person, Professor Văduva was genuinely kind and warm. He always impressed me with his amazing memory and his gift for storytelling with the finest humor. After retirement, when I met him much less often, he would always ask me about my parents, my sister and her family, which touched me very much.

I will always carry in my heart a deep respect and gratitude for my teacher, my mentor, my advisor, Professor Ion Văduva.

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