

Denis ENĂCHESCU<sup>1</sup>

## PROFESSOR ION VĂDUVA, A PROMINENT PIONEER OF ROMANIAN COMPUTER SCIENCE

*Nothing is accidental, everything is providential!*  
(Rev. prof. univ. dr. CONSTANTIN GALERIU)

**Summer 1971:** My examiner at the oral test at the contest admission to the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Bucharest, I would find out years later, was, at the time, a young associate professor recently returned from the U.K. where he had completed a master's degree, brilliantly, in just one year, the Professor. At that time, I did not know that my examiner was also the promoter of the newly established Department of Computer Science which I attended. According to the department's curriculum, in the third and fourth years of the faculty we could choose one optional course; I chose the courses *Monte Carlo method*, respectively *Numerical simulation*, proposed by the Professor. I took these courses not only for the novelty of the subjects but also for the solid connection that, in teaching them, the Professor created between computational statistics and applied informatics. These lectures marked my professional path: I defended a bachelor's thesis under the scientific guidance of the Professor in the field of the Monte Carlo Method. Later, these courses constituted, for me, the foundation for a scientific career as

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<sup>1</sup> Prof. Emeritus, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, and Associate Chief Editor at *Analele UB. Informatică*. E-mail: <denaches@fmi.unibuc.ro>.

university professor and PhD supervisor with expertise in Artificial Intelligence, Data Mining and Biostatistics.

**Autumn 1976:** The Professor accepted me for PhD studies under his scientific supervision. After three years and after I had published part of the results related to the *Monte Carlo method for numerical solution of parabolic equations*, I defended my thesis before a commission chaired by acad. N. Teodorescu. With the PhD title, I became a node in the “genealogic” tree of doctors in mathematics which, traced since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, includes Enrico Betti, Ulisse Dini, Gino Loria, Guido Castelnuovo, Gheorghe Mihoc, Ion Văduva, ...

**Winter 1979:** after finishing my internship in industry, in order to collaborate more closely with the Professor, I apply for a researcher position at the Computing Center of the University of Bucharest – C.C.U.B. As deputy director of the CCUB, the Professor had initiated, for the first time in the country and for universities computing centers, self-financing based on research contracts; I thus had the opportunity to work in research contracts regarding the simulation of hydro-thermo-mineral aquifers, respectively the bioequivalence of drugs. The Professor's recommendation allowed me, at a time when scientific exchanges were restricted, to participate and present my research at congresses abroad.

I was honored by the invitation to meet Professor's family; I was warmly received and thus I could observe not only a model of scientific excellence but also a model of an affectionate husband and loving father.

**Professor Ion Văduva**, a prominent pioneer of Romanian computer science, was, for all the above and for many others that could not fit in this short obituary, the *providential man* for my professional affirmation.

All links were verified by the editors and found to be functioning before the publication of this text in 2024.

#### DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

#### FUNDING

The author received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.