

25 years of the AMCA

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We are celebrating in 2010 the first 25 years of the Argentine Association of Computational Mechanics (AMCA).

While applied numerical methods were in the way of consolidating as a powerful engineering technique in the 60's, several Argentine engineers began to study this new promising subject. I remember the names of Carlos Prato, Carlos Felippa, Agustin Ferrante, Carlos Brebbia, among others.

In the seventies, we began to study these methods at the universities and the activity in this subject was growing all over the country. In 1977 Guillermo Marshall organized the First Symposium on Numerical Methods in Continuum Mechanics. The next landmark, I think, happened at the Centro Atómico Bariloche, with a course of Richard Gallagher on the Finite Element Method, in 1983. This was the first national meeting of a long series which continued until now. This First National Meeting of Researchers and Users of the FEM (ENIEF) was followed by the second one in 1984, and so on. The beautiful city of Bariloche hosted the early ENIEFs.

These meetings resulted very attractive for the computational mechanics Argentine community, and it was decided to constitute an Association which was given birth in 1985, during the First Argentine Congress on Computational Mechanics (MECOM). Sergio Idelsohn had a crucial role in promoting the constitution of our Association and was elected as its first president conducting it through many years and contributing greatly to its international insertion.

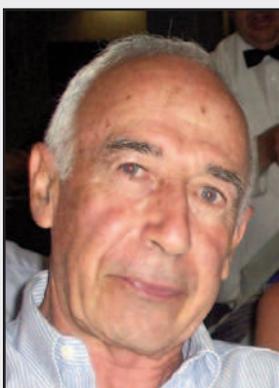
ENIEF changed to be a Congress on Numerical Methods and its Applications, with a wider scope, and took place annually at different venues in our country. With a periodicity of three years, the MECOM Congress alternates with the ENIEF. MECOM usually has a more extended coverage giving place to a South American Congress in this subject.

Figure 1:
*Participants at the first
ENIEF in Bariloche, in
1983*



Prof. Edgardo Omar Taroco Aliano

16/12/1935 - 17/02/2010



Prof. Edgardo Taroco born on December 16, 1935, in Tacuarembó, Uruguay, passed away on February 17, 2010 making significant contributions in the development of the Theoretical, Applied and Computational Mechanics. Before getting the Engineering degree, Edgardo had already manifested his interest for a better understanding of the behavior of shell structures and its applications in the civil and naval engineering. This motivation led him to Mexico in order to join Dr. Porfirio Ballesteros (Northwestern University) specialist in the design and construction of this kind of structural components. After being graduated and already in Uruguay he applied his knowledge in naval engineering and, in particular, in civil engineering collaborating with Architect Eladio Dieste in the project and construction of shell structures. Its interest for a deeper understanding of structural mechanics takes him to COPPE-Coordenação dos Programas de Pós-Graduação em Engenharia, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, obtaining his PhD in the modeling and computational simulation of elasto-viscoplastic plates and shells. In the 80s Edgardo plays a fundamental role in the foundation and consolidation of the National Laboratory for Scientific Computing (LNCC-Laboratório Nacional de Computação Científica) one of the most important research institutions in Brazil. As Full Professor of this institution Edgardo made outstanding contributions to the development of Theoretical, Applied and Computational Mechanics and to the variational formulation of Fracture Mechanics as a Shape Sensitivity problem being one of the protagonists of what was later called "Brazilian School of Shape and Topological Sensitivity Analysis". Edgardo's contribution to these fields was not limited to his

AMCA was one of the first national Associations to integrate the IACM and has an active collaboration with the international and many other national associations of computational mechanics. It has participated in the organization of several international congress, such as the IV WCCM of the IACM in 1998; the CILAMCE (Iberian Latin American Congress of Computational Methods in Engineering) in 1985, 1991, 1998 and 2010; and the Fourth PACAM (Pan American Congress of Applied Mechanics) in 1995.

The AMCA Awards have been stated since 2000 with the aim of recognizing outstanding work of researchers within the Computational Mechanics field.

Beside the already mentioned people, the research groups led by Fernando Basombrio, Eduardo Dvorkin, Patricio Laura, Juan C. Ferreri, Gustavo Sanchez Sarmiento, Marta Rosales, Carlos Garcia Garino, Luis Godoy, Gustavo Buscaglia, Pablo Jacovkis, Marcelo Venere, Angel Menendez, Alberto Cardona, Guillermo Etse, Mario Storti, among many others, contributed to the growing activity of Computational Mechanics in our country. We remember, at this point, those pioneers in our association who passed away: Patricio Laura, Pablo Bignon, Agustin Ferrante and Edgardo Taroco.

AMCA has developed a sustained task in promotion of the activity and diffusion of information, beginning with the edition of a regular bulletin in 1985 which was latter replaced by the electronic bulletin NotiAMCA and the AMCA website and calendar. Proceedings from all AMCA congress are available through the electronic journal www.amcaonline.org.ar/ojs.

We are very proud of our national association. Beside the active work developed towards the consolidation of Computational Mechanics in our region, we must recognize that all these activities gave place to a very nice group of people sharing common interests, friendship and cooperation.

Can we ask for more? ●

Victorio Sonzogni
President

Figure 2:
*Participants at ENIEF 2009
in Tandil.*



own original research. He was also involved in a wide range of other research activities which included the collaboration with the activities of scientific associations in Brazil such as ABCM (Brazilian Association of Engineering and Mechanical Sciences), ABMEC (Brazilian Association of Computational Methods in Engineering) and SBMAC (Brazilian Society of Applied Mathematics and Computation) and, particularly, was one of the first members and permanent collaborator of AMCA (Argentinean Association of Computational Mechanics). He also coordinated a large number of research projects, international research cooperation projects with scientific institutions in countries such as Italy, United Kingdom, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, taught and supervised several MSc and PhD students as well as played an active part in the organization of scientific meetings and international symposia. In this last aspect it is worthwhile to stand out the fundamental role played by Edgardo in the organization of the "Theoretical, Applied Mechanics and Computational Courses". The focus in the first of these courses (1982-1983) was the Theory of Shells and its Applications in Engineering, the second (1984-1985) covered the Foundations of the Finite Element Method. The third in 1986-1987 dealt with Structural Optimization and Sensitivity Analysis. Through these courses more than 600 post graduate students as well as university professors and researchers from Brazil and Latin-American countries had the opportunity to attend advanced lectures delivered by Edgardo and also by internationally renowned researchers specially invited by Edgardo. Among them we can mention Paul Germain, Warner T. Koiter, James Croll, John Spence, Iain Le May, D.R.J. Owen, Giulio Maier, Giampietro Del Piero, Giovanni Romano, James Boyle, Alan Ponter, J. B. Martin, Roger Valid, Jean Céa, M. Bernardou, B. Rousselet, Mohamed Masmoudi, Jan Sokolowski. All these Edgardo's activities allowed to all who had the luck to meet him to enjoy and learn from his remarkable sharpness of mind, intelligence, righteousness, generosity and friendship which made him a colleague that will always be reminded with recognition, gratitude and great affection. ●

Raul Feijoo
April 2010